Daily Report

Latin America

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Panamanian Delegate Asks OAS for 'Protection'

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[Speech by Panamanian Government representative Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt at the 21st OAS Foreign Ministers Consultative Meeting in Washington "at dawn" on 24 August—recorded]

[Text] Mr President: I wish to start my speech by reiterating our recognition in Panama to the commission appointed by the OAS so that we Panamanians, through our own mechanisms, can reach national accord via an agreement to improve our country's domestic political situation. I personally, as the representative to the dialoque of the Panamanian president and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], want to state before the OAS that, in our opinion, the OAS secretary general; Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Cordovez, president of the commission; and the foreign ministers of Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala did an outstanding job. They gained our appreciation because at all times they tried to help, and at all times they also respected Panama and did not meddle in Panama's internal affairs. They respected my country's right to self-determination and publicly declared that their role in Panama was not to impose or decide on situations, but instead to aid in finding a peaceful and democratic solution.

We wish to stress this because just as the OAS took a very delicate step by meeting to hear the affairs of a small country that is under attack but bent on fighting to the bitter end to maintain its sovereignty and its right to be respected, this same OAS, risking the possibility that its action could appear as an intervention in the internal affairs of a country, thus violating its very own charter, nevertheless took the chance and was able to complete its mission, casting aside any doubts and all apprehensions. We, who were able to see and live through this, wish to especially stress this before the OAS members here, who with sacrifice are spending their time in dealing with problems in our country. They are thus contributing to gradually finding a solution and are also helping so that Panama's problems may become known to others in a true light and not the way the United States portrays them.

You should know that the Executive Branch of Panama, the FDP, and the parties comprising the organization called COLINA, the National Liberation Coalition, agreed at all times with the OAS goals concerning Panama. That is why we proposed during the dialogue that we comply with the provisions stated in Paragraph 5 of the declaration issued by the chairman of the 21st Foreign Ministers Consultative Meeting on 19 July 1989 in Washington. As a result of the resolution and in accordance with national interests, we began the proposal by invoking the provisions of the chairman's resolution. We wanted to emphasize the great similarity between the OAS interest in solving Panama's problem in a peaceful and democratic way, and the intention of our government, our FDP, and our parties to find precisely that peaceful and democratic solution.

We proposed the creation of a provisional government with broad participation starting on 1 September. Those who wished to create the impression that the Panamanian Government or its FDP opposes the installation of a government that includes the participation of the different groups in the country received a flat refusal that is endorsed by the presence, testimony, experience, and debates that were heard by the distinguished representatives of the organization who attended the dialogue.

We stated that the Panamanian Government and its FDP were aware that it was necessary to attain the Panamanian people's national unity, that it was necessary to end the political rift prevailing among us, which has precluded a peaceful solution because it is encouraged by foreign hands. We said we specifically proposed—without subterfuge, without beating around the bush, without twisting the facts, but by following the OAS spirit—the creation of that government of broad representation with all the political groups of the country on 1 September, and we mentioned precisely that date.

In addition, the OAS pointed out in its statement that free elections should be held as soon as practicable. We did not want to debate whether a supranational organization could tell a particular country when it should hold elections. We did not want to debate this because such a legal and political discussion would have distorted the spirit in which the OAS approved the suggestion that Panama should find a peaceful and democratic formula to solve its problems. In other words, we thought that the fact that the OAS was sponsoring a democratic solution in Panama outweighed the doubtful profit of a legal and political discussion. However right our position had been, this discussion would have defeated the purpose for which it had been approved.

Reflecting the OAS stance, we pointed out in our proposal that a provisional government should be installed and that this provisional government should be entrusted with the task of organizing free elections as soon as possible. In other words, we did not even try to change the OAS phrase. We reproduced the OAS words verbatim to highlight the complete agreement between the intent of the Panamanian Government, its Defense Forces, and the COLINA parties, and the statement made by the president of this meeting. In this proposal, we pointed out several facts about the aggression taking place against us. We will detail these facts later.

We expanded our proposal when we saw that the sectors talking with us during that debate apparently did not regard the proposal as sufficient. In our expansion, we said a provisional government should be made up by one representative from COLINA, one from ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance], and one from the other important forces in our national life. We wanted to make the proposal even more specific so that there would be no doubt as to what sector we were referring to

when we said we were inviting them to join us in the government to assume office on 1 September. We also said in the proposal that we meant ADOC and not any other political organization, that it is ADOC, with which we have a political disagreement, that should join us in the task of governing Panama as of 1 September. We even said during the dialogue, to give our proposal added support, that we mentioned a representative of the other important forces because, for nearly 2 years, a great political belligerence by both the opposition and government sectors had been expressed through civic, union, professional, and business organizations. We also said it was not wise to ignore this new political phenomenon and that, because we were talking about a national unity government, the two sides should jointly select a person who could represent this new expression of Panamanian politics. So we felt we had to offer this explanation at the OAS for you to decide whether or not the Panamanian Government, the COLINA parties, and the FDP have been, are, and will continue to be determined to achieve a peaceful and democratic solution for our country, but with all foreign hands out of our territory, our individuality, and our structures. These foreign powers cannot give us orders. We will not obey them, regardless of the pressures, threats, maneuvers, and aggression against Panama.

Expanding on the concept of the shortest possible time, and in an effort to preclude an interpretation of this time to mean 1, 2, 3, or 5 years, we also proposed that this provisional government should call for elections no later than 1 year after it is agreed upon. This inclusion in our proposal can be checked by the OAS delegates. But we did not stop there. We expanded our proposal even further to make the opposition join us in this new way to govern our country, and also to dispel any doubts as to our intentions.

This is what we added to our proposal as a complement to the mechanism for producing a formula of understanding to transfer power on 1 September: One, the provisional government, which would represent the country's political forces and which would assume office on 1 September 1989, would immediately revise the relations between the civilian society and the military forces on a sound, lasting basis. An agenda was agreed upon by the two sides at the beginning of the dialogue. In this agenda, which was included in the first report of the commission, the opposition proposed that General Noriega leave the post of commander. Another point called for an analysis of what each side understood transfer of power to mean. To discuss these topics and reach the necessary and satisfactory conclusions for the country so we Panamanians could work out our own solutions, we said in the addition to the proposal that this provisional government would immediately have to initiate an analysis of the new relations with the military forces so the political and military life of our homeland could return to normal. This has been the stance of the government, the Defense Forces, and the COLINA parties. We even left the year for the elections unspecified. In the paper, we left a blank space with two X's and said: This provisional government would also call for elections no later than X months after 1 September 1989. This left a door open. The two sides could calculate how soon the elections could be held, taking into consideration our political, economic, and administrative reality. So we have always acted in a spirit similar to the one that has moved the OAS.

We even expanded our proposal the following way: The provisional government would act according to a schedule that would interconnect the stages in the normalization process, taking into account the outside and inside factors of the Panamanian crisis. This was done to consider internal subjects that some foreign ministers had accurately pointed out, such as specific periods prior to the elections to determine the formation of a new electoral tribunal, an examination of the electoral registries, a restructuring of the operation of the polling tables, and an assessment of the validity of the votes and the voting table and circuit certificates. Another point had to do with establishing certain procedures so the winning presidential candidate could be announced a few hours after the election is closed.

All of these points proposed in the dialogue and included in this proposal aimed at the provisional government acting according to a schedule so none of the two sides could entertain any doubts. We also pointed out that we were most interested in the opposition joining us in a new government on 1 September because we considered this to be not only a peaceful, but a democratic, formula for an understanding among Panamanians.

It would also serve to create a solid front among Panamanians to reach an end to the economic and military aggression being waged against us. Its purpose would also be to hold elections organized by all those who are going to participate in them. Being organized jointly, the correctness of the held elections, their results, and the proclamation of the winners of the elections would be guaranteed.

With that criteria, besides complying with the sentiment of the political and military forces of the Republic of Panama, we would be concurring with the OAS position, which fortunately in its spirit and purpose concurred with our national sentiment.

We tell the distinguished representatives of the OAS that once the dialogue was finished and no agreement was reached—we will not discuss at this session the details as to why no agreement was reached, because in a mutual pact the two parties decided it was not advisable to go into those details— we were convinced, and we declared so immediately at a press conference at the end of the dialogue, that the dialogue had ended at that moment but that it had not ended as far as the country and its people were concerned.

We said we believed that, with the help of the OAS, we were in a situation in which we could continue the dialogue among Panamanians at any time the parties

agreed to do so. Our declaration was very similar to the one made by our country's political opposition.

We want to make it absolutely clear here that at no time has it been our intention to deceive, distort, or misinterpret the OAS position. That is why we reiterate our gratitude for the presence of the distinguished delegates in Panama and for the work they accomplished. We truly believe it is fitting and proper that Mr President has included in his declaration the statement that at our request the OAS would gladly participate in any dialogue that we would engage in.

We want to express to Mr President our gratitude for including that concern and that offer, which we appreciate in all its magnitude. We will be with him to the extent that the parties may deem advisable.

However, Mr President, we also have to point out the basic principle of this proposal. The OAS approved a study of the foreign factors that affect the Republic of Panama's crisis, but, because of a series of circumstances, most of the study and analysis centered around our country's domestic factors. Very little referred to the foreign factors. We believe that these external factors must be stressed because, in our opinion as Panamanians, those foreign factors are preventing Panamanians from having a true democracy and a truly peaceful regime, and from living in perfect harmony.

Our country has always had political controversies. We Panamanians have always been at odds politically. Panama's political controversies are nothing new or unusual. There are political differences in Panama just as there are in all countries.

As Panamanians, we have always been able to resolve these political squabblings without shedding blood, without persecutions, in peace, while trying to correct all the mistakes we have made. Panama has always done this through all its generations and through all its leaders since 1903, when we gained our independence. But now the United States takes upon itself the right of telling us what we should do. It tells us before the elections that if our candidate Carlos Duque wins, the United States is not going to recognize the elections because those elections will have been fraudulent. We are not making this charge here; this was on television and in magazines and newspapers throughout the United States. Before the elections, the United States said through the press and the information services, as well as through some of their officials, that they had given $10 million to the opposition's electoral campaign. In the United States some senators said they were going to Panama to act as observers and, when they were asked on television by a reporter how they were going to enter Panama if they had no visas, they began to laugh mockingly and replied they had more powerful tools than visas with which to enter Panama.

During the elections they installed themselves in a U.S. military base and, on election day, 30 minutes after the voting had ended, they appeared on a television program declaring the opposition candidate the winner. They said that this time they were not going to say it in English, but in Spanish, so that all the Panamanian people could understand. From that same military base, through Channel 8 television, the U.S. Army campaigned for the Panamanian opposition during the entire electoral campaign. I ask: Is this the way a country is to carry out democratic elections? We have a treaty with the United States covering the Panama Canal. This treaty covers the working of the U.S. Armed Forces in Panama. One of the articles of this treaty specifically says that the U.S. Army and its members must abstain from meddling in Panamanian politics and in Panama's internal affairs. The United States mockingly says it wants to comply with the treaties.

I accompanied General Torrijos—because I headed the commission that negotiated the Torrijos-Carter treaties—to the White House to meet with President Carter to discuss the problem of the preferential transit of U.S. warships through the Panama Canal in case of emergencies or in times of war. This discussion, which had moved the U.S. Senate, was resolved by President Carter and General Torrijos in a way that was convenient to both countries. That declaration, which they issued jointly and which is part of the treaty, also has a specific point saying that the United States, the Panama Canal Administration, the U.S. members of the Canal Administration, and the members of the U.S. Army cannot meddle in Panama's internal affairs. However, the United States meddles without affecting its declaration that it wants to comply with the treaties and that it is going to comply with the treaties.

In this same room we held a ceremony that was attended by most of the continent's presidents. It was announced that a new relationship was about to begin between two countries that had waged a struggle, a struggle that was serious and painful for us since the very moment we became independent. Thanks to the generations that followed, and thanks to the great leadership of that great patriot General Omar Torrijos Herrera, a date of expiration was put on the ominous perpetuity the United States had imposed upon Panama when Panama became independent in 1903.

Distiguished President, those treaties no sooner came into effect than they became meaningless words on paper. U.S. Law 96-70 was immediately approved to violate the treaties. While the spirit of these treaties went one way, Law 96-70, which the United States calls treaty implementation, took steps that are completely removed from the treaties. However, the United States says they want to comply and will comply with these treaties.

The United States mocks the treaties. It mocks the treaties by not complying with the Panama Canal Commission's provisions, which include holding some sessions in the Republic of Panama. The U.S. Government refuses to hold these meetings in Panama. The law claimed that a majority would be achieved in the commission only if the majority of the U.S. members

attended the meeting. Seeking to evade the fact that the Panamanians must have an increasing participation in the Panama Canal Commission's high-level positions, the United States created the so-called security positions, which can only be held by U.S. citizens. Every time an important post is open it is declared a national security position, and they thus mock the provision about an increasing participation.

The appointment of a Panamanian administrator for the canal is scheduled for next year. The administrator is appointed by the United States and is proposed by the Republic of Panama. Many people ask us: How can a Panamanian citizen become a Panama Canal administrator if this makes him a U.S. Government-appointed official? This is not a contradiction—even though it seems so—if you understand the reality of the relations prevailing between the Republic of Panama and the United States and the previous existence of the so-called Panama Canal Zone, which was under the exclusive and excluding jurisdiction of the United States in perpetuity. U.S. courts, jails, police and fire departments, and post offices existed where some sort of alien republic had become embedded in the very heart of our territory.

The two countries searched the treaty for a way to overcome this contradiction by creating norms that would make it possible to gradually settle issues that seemed impossible to settle. They did not want to affect their interests in the operations of the interoceanic waterway, because the operations are a matter of interest for both countries and also the international community. That is why this dual situation occurred, and continues to occur, in Panama. On many occasions you see that part of the houses have reverted to Panama and the other houses are turned over to the Panama Canal Administration so that U.S. citizens may keep them. Also, even though Panama immediately enforced full jurisdiction in its territory, criminal and civilian trials which had not been concluded within a 36-month period were allowed to continue—so as not to obstruct the management of justice, in this case at the U.S. courts in Panama.

Furthermore, for a certain period of time U.S. citizens were allowed to continue making their purchases in what they call the Army post stores, so that the change could be gradually carried out. This is the spirit, the true spirit, in which the Torrijos-Carter treaties were concluded. The United States had great negotiators, such as Messrs Sol Linowitz and Ellsworth Bunker. We had the opportunity of meeting very brilliant senators here in the United States. Even though they rejected the new relations, they made important contributions so that another type of relations was possible between the two countries.

We met in the U.S. Senate a man who deeply impressed us: Hubert Humphrey. He gave us a lesson on political changes in the 20th Century. We feel no enmity toward this country, and we feel no enmity toward these people. We have only sought, throughout our relations with the United States, to maintain harmonious and fruitful relations marked by respect for the Panamanian people's dignity and the Panamanian nation's sovereignty.

That is what we are asking for. As for the military, the treaties changed the exclusive and excluding role that the United States played in the defense of the canal and the canal area, and our Armed Forces were given an additional role.

In their military aspect, the treaties had functioned in such harmony that even our two countries were surprised. Our Defense Forces adapted to the new situation. Our Defense Forces find it very easy to adapt themselves to the joint military tasks with the United States because for years it has received more U.S. training and military expertise than any other Latin American military force. Practically all our officers, including our commander, from Gen Torrijos when he was commander down to Gen Noriega, his staff, and its officers, have received specialized land, sea, and air training from the U.S. military. This joint operation between them has been perfectly blended and harmonious. They have conducted many joint maneuvers. The two Armed Forces have solved many problems together.

As part of the treaties, we negotiated with the Pentagon regarding the status of the U.S. Armed Forces in Panama, and we pointed out in detail everything that can be called a military code. This is contained in the treaties as an annex to Article IV, and it regulates the presence of the U.S. army in Panama on the military bases and in areas of military coordination, their role in joint maneuvers, the way in which convoys must be mobilized in our territory, and the way in which the two countries must face, according to their constitutional right, an emergency or a state of war that might endanger the canal or its free operation. All that is contained in the treaties. What is not contained in the treaties is bad faith and nonfulfillment. The United States is now conducting maneuvers on its own, overstepping the joint committee and the Joint Command. It is terrorizing the Panamanian people, surrounding towns with tanks and helicopter gunships, and threatening and capturing Panamanian citizens in their own country. It forces them to lie down and points guns at their heads. It is arresting members of our Defense Forces, trying to provoke incidents. We are not making this up. We have shown all this to the OAS delegates at the dialogue in films we have taken of this outrage and infamy that the United States is committing against a small country, of its bullying and surrounding of our towns. The other day they took over one of the water purifying plants in Chilibre, which supplies water to the City of Panama. The soldiers can be seen there laughing their heads off, saying: Let's see how the Panamanians are going to drink water now.

They fly their helicopter gunships over the City of Panama, violating the airspace and terrorizing the citizens. They leave their explosive devices behind after conducting their military maneuvers, and men, women, and children have died when they approached these devices with curiosity because they are not familiar with

them. This has not been mentioned here at the OAS. Here they speak only of the concept of democracy. We speak of that concept of democracy and human rights, along with the respect that the superpowers should have for countries, regardless of how small or defenseless they may be. That is the call and clamor that we are making to our Latin American brothers. We want to let them know that Panama is the victim of the most infamous military aggression, that our people are being terrorized by the U.S. Army, and that they are surrounding our towns with tanks, planes, combat helicopters, and landing craft. And you can ask for those rolls of film. Let's get a Betamax here and we will bring the movies so you can see them here tonight. The OAS delegates are aware of this because they witnessed it.

The delegates of the OAS special mission have witnessed those maneuvers during each of their visits to Panama. On one occasion, the members of the OAS mission went to Ft Amador to hold a meeting there, and the U.S. Army conducted military, artillery maneuvers right in front of them in order to intimidate. The U.S. Army wanted to show the OAS delegates what could happen to Panama if the OAS did not serve the U.S. purposes of condemning the Panamanian Government and Gen Noriega, and of imposing a government approved by the United States, and therefore, a government that would let the United States violate and eliminate the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The OAS special mission witnessed those maneuvers.

You can ask....[changes thought] Out of decency, the members of the OAS mission have not talked about what they saw and experienced in Panama. We understand that decency. We, however, cannot be silent, because we are the victims. The aggressor wants to have us on the carpet here as if we were the villains. Those who terrrorized our population want to tell us here that we do not have a democratic government in Panama. Those who violate the canal treaties want to bring us here and tell you they are abiding by the treaties.

I took the president of the Panamanian Supreme Court of Justice before the delegates of the OAS special mission for her to tell them about the way in which she was offended by the U.S. Army at the Ancon Maritime Tribunal and about the way the U.S. Army troops made fun of her and threatened her with their machineguns. We took her before the OAS delegates for her to tell them about the way in which the U.S. troops surrounded the tribunal's building preventing her and the rest of the tribunal's personnel from leaving the building.

We have to talk about those realities here so that you can assess and become truly aware of the tragedy Panama is experiencing. That tragedy is more serious than a simple speech about democracy and elections.

Next year, Panama is scheduled to take over the canal administration. The United States has done two things. It created the post of chief engineer in the canal. The United States switched all the functions corresponding to the canal administrator to the chief engineer so that next year the Panamanian citizen who fills the post of canal administrator becomes a mere figure, a clown, an official without any responsibilities, a puppet, a figure that would serve only to appear in papers saying he is the Panama Canal administrator, but who will have no functions in practice, because the United States created the post of chief engineer.

The Panamanian Legislative Assembly held sessions to elect the Panamanian Canal administrator. The Legislative Assembly fulfilled the necessary procedures, chose a Panamanian citizen in accordance with those procedures and proposed him to the United States as the Panamanian Canal administrator. The Panamanian Legislative Assembly elected Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, who is a current Panamanian legislator. He is also a businessman and one of the owners of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, one of the most respected newspapers in our homeland. That newspaper has been circulating in Panama for over 100 years.

Tomas Altamirano was the housing minister once. At that time, everybody in Panama acknowledged the great work he did in the construction of houses for the needy. Tomas Altamirano Duque was also the director of our Sports Institute. He promoted and improved our homeland's sports activities. Tomas Altamirano was also public works minister and he did a lot for our nation then too. That is the man the Panamanian Legislative Assembly proposed to the United States. Tomas Altamirano is an honest, upright man. Yet, the United States did not accept him.

The United States has invented, the United States has invented [repeats himself] the idea that to abide by the canal treaties there must be a Panamanian Government and a Panamanian democracy of its own design. The United States has said that if that government and that democracy does not exist they cannot abide by the treaties. The United States has invented that clause. That clause is not part of the canal treaties. We disagree with that clause. If there is a democratic regime in Panama, the United States must abide by the canal treaties. If there is a dictatorial regime in Panama, the United States must abide by the treaties. If there is a socialist regime in Panama, the United States must abide by the treaties. If there is a fascist regime in Panama, the United States must abide by the treaties. And if a fascist regime appears in the United States and replaces U.S. democracy, Panama must comply with the treaties.

If there is a socialist regime in the United States, Panama must abide the treaties. Panama has no right to question the type of government existing in the United States and the United States does not have the right to question the type of government existing in Panama, because when the treaties were signed, neither country included a clause stating that compliance with the treaties depended on the existence of a determined form of political regime. We do not accept that abusive interpretation that goes against the law. The United States is getting ready to not comply with the two big commitments it has

at the end of this century, and that is the main reason for the outrages and aggression against the Republic of Panama. On 31 December 1999, the United States must pull its troops out of the Republic of Panama, and it must return the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama. The United States seeks to ruin Panama, to destabilize it, to make it fall on its knees in order to force Panama to conclude a new military treaty that will prolong the presence of the U.S. troops. The United States inserted that provision into Law 96-70 in a clause that forces its president to try by all possible means to obtain from the Panamanian Government a new treaty prolonging its military presence, and to notify the Congress on the progress made on those negotiations.

Our Latin American brothers must know of this truth, because this is the origin, this is the true factor that keeps Panama in its present situation. What has the United States done to implement the policy which is ruining my fatherland, destabilizing it, and seeking to make it fall to its knees? The United States has wielded a flag: Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega. That is the flag. The United States is losing sleep as long as Gen Noriega remains in the post of commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP. The United States is not losing any sleep over the USSR or the PRC. When the disturbances took place at Tianamen Square in the PRC and people were killed, the State Department issued a statement saying it did not like what had happened, but that it was democratic. There were superior interests of state at stake and it kept silent. However, Panama's Noriega is making the United States lose sleep, because there is no democracy. Noriega is making the United States lose sleep because it sells U.S. technology to Cuba. Noriega is making the United States lose sleep because he is a KGB and CIA agent.

Noriega is making the United States lose sleep because he is charged with being a narcotics trafficker. Noriega is making the United States lose sleep because when there was a coup in Argentina, and one of those instigators happened to be in Panama, the United States began to say that Noriega was the one who had tried to stage that coup.

When something happens in Central America, Noriega gets blamed. When something happens in Africa, Noriega gets blamed. When something happens in Europe, Noriega gets blamed. When we are called to a meeting, the first thing we are told is: Noriega.

Gentlemen, the United States is about to fall apart as a state, because Noriega is the FDP commander. This is the picture the United States is presenting. What has Noriega done to the United States? In Latin America, there is hardly a military officer that has collaborated so much with the United States in fighting narcotics trafficking. The United States knows it, the DEA [Drug Enforcement Agency] knows it, the DEA is aware of all the work Gen Noriega has done. When Noriega destroyed the huge drug factory that was being assembled in Darien Province, he was not following U.S. orders. The U.S. agents who went there knew about this because they were told about it, and not because they had any prior knowledge. That factory was being installed there at a cost of over $100 million, complete with landing strips, laboratories, and Noriega did not allow it and destroyed it.

The man the United States has imprisoned and who made the statements that led to some indictments [preceding word in English] in Florida, that man who is in a U.S. jail, was first arrested in Panama and then Noriega turned him over to the United States.

It is because of Noriega that that man is in jail. However, since the system here allows a person who is in jail to receive a reduced sentence if he accuses someone else, that is the evidence they have against Noriega. There are now published reports....[changes thought]. I read on 22 or 23 August that despite the tragedy in Cuba, where the Cuban Government adopted strong measures to deal with the problem of drug trafficking, U.S. officials are not helping to reinforce those measures against drug trafficking, but are, instead, now publishing reports that a judge will reduce the sentence of a convict who says that Fidel Castro and his brother are involved in the drug trade. This lack of seriousness does not allow U.S. officials to act properly.

During Gen Omar Torrijos' time, they also accused him of being a drug trafficker. The U.S. Senate also said that it would conduct a secret trial. Each time someone dissents, a charge is made against him. The charge now is that he is a drug trafficker. Before, the charge was that he was a communist. During World War II, dissenters were fascists or Hitlerites. And so, this is the system.

The remedy they are giving Panama uses propaganda as a means of aggression. There is a new instrument to occupy countries: Propaganda is used as a means of aggression. Instead of disembarking Marines in a country, they release millions and millions of news reports through the radio, television, newspapers, and satellites all over the country. Therefore, when you meet people in Panama who have come from Europe, they say: You have violated Panama's Constitution by removing Mr Eric Arturo Delvalle from the presidency and installing Mr Manuel Solis Palma as president. This violates the constitution, they say. When we ask them what our constitution says on this aspect, they do not know. They say they have not read it. This happens to us all the time. People who come to Panama say: You have violated such a thing. Yes, indeed, we have violated the penal code, but what does the penal code say, we ask. They do not read it.

Because Panama is a small country and almost defenseless, they feel empowered to come to Panama in the mood to pardon lives. That is why we respect the OAS and their delegates. They arrived in our country with dignity. They arrived and respected us, and that is why they earned our respect. When we asked the United States: Very well, let us discuss Manuel Antonio Noriega's case. Where is the proof that he is a drug

trafficker? Where is it? Bring it, show it at the OAS. I asked the U.S. representatives to present to you the evidence against Noriega here, but not in a speech. I am a lawyer. There are many lawyers here and we know what proof is. Bring it here and prove to the OAS delegates that Noriega is a drug trafficker. Prove it to them, not in a speech or a newspaper article. Show the proof that Noriega deals with drugs or that he ever did. Show the proof to them! That is what we want. That is our cry here today against propaganda used as a means of aggression! Against television used as a means of aggression! Against the infamy perpetrated against Manuel Antonio Noriega!

That is what we want! Let it not be said that Noriega is a drug trafficker. Let them bring the proof. Say: Messrs of the OAS, here is the proof Noriega is a drug trafficker. Mr U.S. Ambassador, I demand that the evidence that Noriega is a drug trafficker be brought to the OAS so you can be believed! We are sick and tired of the NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST propaganda, publishing reports that Noriega is a drug trafficker. We are sick and tired of the television reports and dispatches from news agencies that cover the world. No! We want you, in this forum where there are educated, intelligent, professional people, lawyers who know what the law is, to bring the evidence. You can say: Gentlemen, we cannot live with Noriega because here is the evidence that he is a drug trafficker. That is what I want! I am a lawyer specializing in criminal law and I am used to handling evidence, respecting people, and not levying any charges without proof.

I have known very brilliant U.S. lawyers, from whom I have learned a great deal especially regarding the handling of evidence. Where is the evidence? I do not see it. I hear speeches. I hear speeches against Noriega. I hear remarks against Noriega. I hear accusations against Noriega. Yet I do not see any proof.

Bring the testimony of the detainee here. Bring it! Bring in the detainee and you will see who apprehended him. Bring in the detainee, and you will see the kind of person he is. He is currently detained in a U.S. jail. We can wait for him here. I am willing to sit down and wait here until the detainee arrives so that he can accuse Noriega in front of all of you. That is evidence, and that is what [word indistinct], and that is what we want to clarify before the OAS once and for all, because our Latin American brothers are not being told the truth regarding the problem of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Noriega is a man who studied at a Peruvian military academy. He was given a scholarship because he was a poor man. Noriega received special training at the U.S. Army; Noriega received special training in Israel; Noriega is a military engineer. Noriega is not commander in chief of the FDP because he was given that post, or because he has an aristocratic name, or because he inherited that command.

The FDP is a small but respectable force. It is made up of men who come from humble families; all of its officers are men who were born poor, who have studied in military academies with scholarships—including our foremost leader Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera—and who have studied in Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, Guatemalan, Honduran, Colombian, Peruvian, Ecuadoran, Argentine, Chilean, and all the Latin American academies, because we did not have any military schools here. They all studied on scholarships, 99 percent of them. They have earned their positions based on merit, not as gifts or favors. The FDP does not have military conscription. Anyone who wants to join its forces can do so, and anyone who wants to leave can do so too, and when its men reach retirement age, they receive a pension as any other citizen. They live anywhere in Panama City and mingle with the rest of the people. That is what our FDP is.

We have rejected with indignation the charges that have been and are being made against our FDP. The problem with our FDP—as Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera told Senator Kennedy at the beginning of the Panamanian revolutionary process—is that it divorced from the Panamanian oligarchy to marry again, this time with the Panamanian people. That is its tragedy! The FDP's problem is that it is the spinal cord of Panamanian nationalism; it is a zealous guardian of our sovereignty; it is a military institution willing to shed its blood to defend our homeland, as are all Panamanians, regardless of threats, because we want to be respected, and we want our sovereignty respected.

We owe this to our past generations, to our young students who were massacred on 9 January 1964 by the U.S. Army. We owe it to them, we owe this to those who died in 1925 when U.S. Army soldiers killed them with their bayonets right in Panama City. We cannot step back. That is why Gen Noriega says: Not one step backwards! That is why Noriega does not leave the FDP command, because neither he....[changes thought] His defense forces and we have told him that he cannot step down following U.S. orders. He will leave the FDP command when the Panamanian people, their institutions, their Law 20, their armed institution, and their Executive Branch so decide, not when the U.S. decides.

That is his tragedy, because he refused to accept Poindexter's proposal to lend the FDP to attack the Nicaraguan Sandinist government; because he refused to allow the U.S. Government to continue operating the School of the Americas in Panama after the deadline established in the treaties had expired.

That is Noriega's tragedy! That is the tragedy Noriega has had to endure with stoicism. He has endured slander because he refused to massacre our Central American brothers, and because he has refused to accept arrangements to prolong the presence of U.S. troops in Panama beyond the year 2000.

We Panamanians who know his background have no objection to saying that just as Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera placed Panama's name in world geography,

Manuel Antonio Noriega has placed Panama's name in the geography of dignity and resistance of the free peoples of the world!

That is why we challenge his accusers. We are here, and we commit ourselves to be here. Mr President, we ask you to call a meeting, a special OAS conference so that the world can publicly receive the evidence proving that Noriega is a drug trafficker. We want the evidence to be shown here. We want the international television, newspapers, and radio to see that evidence. Show the evidence! We will come to that meeting. Show the evidence to these gentlemen, to these foreign ministers. Show it to them!

They should stop making accusations based on some newspaper article or a story saying that Noriega is a drug trafficker. That is what we want. We want to put an end to this mistaken idea and to these slanderous remarks. We know what is behind this obsession. Their real intentions are to behead our defense forces. We know about the plan. The purpose is to change the officers of the FDP; the purpose is to create an obedient police force and disarm it. They will later say the police are incapable of defending the canal. Then the countries of the world will have to say: It is true, the United States should keep its troops in Panama because the local police with their nightsticks and whistles cannot defend the canal. That is what they want. We, Mr President, wanted to point this out to you.

Here we have a note sent by a lieutenant colonel to Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega. On 22 August, he sent a note to Gen Noriega and sent a copy to Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Perry, who came out on television and said, I don't give a shit [preceding phrase in English], when he was asked about the tanks running around Panama City. That was his response. These statements were made on television and we can show it to you [reads]: Lt Col Perry, co-chairman of the Combined Board, U.S. Armed Forces. We hereby want to firmly protest the violation of Article 15 of the agreement for the implementation of Article 4, which states that the U.S. Armed Forces should consult with the Combined Board for the mobilization of military convoys. On 4 August 1989, at approximately 1740, four 2.5-ton trucks, two amphibious vehicles, three Hummer vehicles, and an ambulance drove from Colon to Panama City. On 7 August 1989, at approximately 0900, four 2.5-ton trucks, three Hummer vehicles, one pickup truck, and an ambulance drove from Colon to Panama City. On 8 August 1989, at approximately at 1031, two 2.5-ton trucks, a yellow bus, a small white bus, and a covered truck [word indistinct] drove from Colon to Panama City. On 9 August 1989, at approximately 1200, seven 2.5-ton trucks, five Hummer vehicles, an ambulance, and a small bus drove from Colon to Panama City. No Panamanian military police escort was requested for any of the mobilizations mentioned above, and they failed to coordinate with their Panamanian counterparts as established in the Combined Board agreements. Sincerely, Lt Col Armando Palacios Gondola, co-chairman of the Combined Board, FDP.

This lieutenant colonel participated in the dialogue that was promoted by the OAS representatives. When he first participated in the talks, he was an FDP major. A short time ago, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and was appointed to the Combined Board as a Panamanian representative. There, we explained how the FDP granted promotions: because of seniority, merit, discipline, patriotism, and love for the fatherland. The OAS representatives can give you their opinion of the actions of this lieutenant colonel at the talks. They can also tell you of the actions of Lieutenant Colonel Luis Cordoba and Colonel Julio Ow Young, who represented the FDP. What were their actions? What did they say? What did they think? Ask the questions to the OAS representatives and ask them whether it is true or not that the Panamanian FDP is determined, along with civilians, to lead our country down a democratic, peaceful path with the participation of the Panamanian opposition.

What are we asking as Panamanians? We are asking for respect. We want our dignity respected. We do not want to be humiliated. We want to solve our own problems. Out here today, I spent a lot of time talking to some Panamanians, who are here in exile. They are personal friends. I spent almost all day talking to them because we Panamanians are not resentful men. We may disagree, but we are not resentful.

We can solve our own problems. However, we have asked the United States, we have asked the U.S. Government over and over again to stop meddling in Panama and to let our country develop as an independent country among other Latin American nations.

We hereby make an appeal to our Latin American brothers: Take advantage of the fact that the OAS has obtained in-depth knowledge of the Panamanian problem and can thoroughly analyze it, so that you can help prevent the imminent military aggression our country will suffer by people who are discontent with the resolution or the statement issued today by the OAS. These people are already threatening us. We have already understood the content of the message in their statements.

We want a harmonious relationship with the United States. We understand not only the need for but also the joint destiny of our two countries over the canal. We understand the role we must play as part of the nations on the American continent. We want to restore those relationships to normal. We want to end the internal conflict. We are willing to adopt all necessary measures so democracy can be a reality in Panama as soon as possible. Soon, we want to have the pleasure of inviting the OAS to attend the democratic events in which we all believe. However, to attain this we need the gun over our heads, represented by the military maneuvers, to be

removed. We want to have our money and our funds back. The United States is not paying Panama the canal annuities; it is spending it in propaganda against Panama. The deductions from our workers in the canal area such as Social Security Fund contributions, which provide medical care, and income taxes are being withheld. The United States is not delivering those funds to the Republic of Panama. The funds in the form of taxes that U.S. companies in our country should pay are not being delivered to Panama either. The money belonging to our Banco Nacional was frozen here in the United States and has not been delivered to our country. Some people are having a good time with these funds, they are spending it. The Senate has already asked for an investigation to find out why are Panama's funds being spent.

They have not told that truth. The United States has not said it has imposed an economic blockade against the Republic of Panama. It has never mentioned at all that it is spending these funds. We ask you Latin American brothers if you believe that withholding the Republic of Panama's money is an act of justice and cooperation. These funds legally belong to Panama. We are not asking the United States for a (?Marshall Plan) to make up for the ruin they have caused in our country. We are not asking for U.S. generosity. We are not asking the United States to give us money. We are not asking a thing from the United States. We are asking the United States to give us our money back, which it has been illegally withholding. This is what we are asking for, with you as witnesses. We are asking that the United States return the full sum, the full sum to Panama [repeats himself], that the United States bring the certificates corresponding to the hundreds of thousands of dollars. We hope the day the United States is going to return those sums, it will not say it had to spend $50 or $100 million. When those sums are returned to Panama we are going to bring it here and count it in front of you so that you see whom are we dealing with. We will do this so that you are able to see what is happening to Panama. This is the cry of grief we want to shout at the OAS, so our Latin American brothers will become aware of the tragedy of the Panamanian people, so that tomorrow, when we are being massacred, you will not be asked, as the Bible says: Cain, the voice of your brother's blood crieth unto me.

We are asking for your protection against an imminent U.S. Army military aggression in view of the declaration you have just approved and which has not pleased them. We give you our word as Panamanians as we have proven in this proposal. Once we are free of these measures, sanctions, and aggression, we will invite you so that you will see how we Panamanians, in a climate of peace, can quickly restore tranquillity to all Panamanian homes. We can bring back to the country all Panamanians who are abroad, and rule the country, jointly with our adversaries in politics, but not adversaries in nationality. We can do all that because we are people capable of doing this, because we are a civilized nation, with enough determination to be a nation and to overcome temporary disagreements. Mr President, this is what I wanted to say on behalf of my fatherland, on behalf of the FDP, of the president of the Republic, on behalf of the Panamanian people, of the Panamanian people [repeats himself]—those who support us as well as those who are our adversaries. This is what we want to convey to the soul and conscience of Latin America: The cry of grief of a nation that wants to be a friend of the United States but that when faced with an aggression will not be a leaf in the storm. It will be the storm of Latin America. Thank you very much. [Applause]

Cuba

Trial Against Abrantes, Other Officers Begins

FL2508120589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The first oral trial session in 1989 Case No 2 on the charges filed by the Special Military Tribunal against the following defendants ended last night: Division General Jose Abrantes Fernandez, Division General Pascual Martinez Gil, Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Carreno Gomez, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Gil Castellanos, Lieutenant Colonel Rolando Castaneda Izquierdo, Brigade General Roberto Gonzalez Caso, and Hector Carbonell Mendez, all from the Interior Ministry [MININT].

Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro is presiding over the Special Military Tribunal. The tribunal is composed of Division General Jesus Bermudez Cutino and Rear Admiral Pedro M. Perez Betancourt, who are acting as judges. The Ministry of the Prosecution is being represented by Lieutenant Colonel of Justice Felipe Aleman Cruz. Lieutenant Colonel of Justice Ernesto Vasallo Consuegra is acting as secretary.

The defense has been assumed by the following lawyers: Dr Mario Ceballos Arrieta, representing defendant Div Gen Jose Abrantes Fernandez; Dr Juan Mendoza Diaz, representing Div Gen Pascual Martinez Gil; Dr Tomas de Aquino Oquendo Aneiro, representing defendant Lt Col Oscar Carreno Gomez; Dr Juvencio Urbay Cancio, representing defendant Lt Col Manuel Gil Castellanos; Dr Mario Tagle Babe, representing defendant Lt Col Rolando Castaneda Izquierdo; Dr Clemente Gomez Rodriguez, representing defendant Brig Gen Roberto Gonzalez Caso; and Dr Jorge Lorenzo Mendez, representing defendant Hector Carbonell Mendez.

The charges against defendants Abrantes Fernandez, Martinez Gil, and Carreno Gomez include the crimes of abusing privileges of post and inappropriate use of financial and material resources. Abrantes Fernandez is also accused of negligence in his duties. Defendants Gonzalez Caso, Gil Castellanos, and Castaneda Izquierdo are also charged, in addition to abuse of the post, with the crime of bribery. Defendant Carbonell Mendez will have to respond for the crimes of abuse of his post, bribery, and misappropriation. Carbonell Mendez, Gil Castellanos, and Castaneda Izquierdo are also charged with illegal carrying and possession of firearms.

The charges of the crimes of inappropriate use of financial and material resources, bribery, and illegal possession of firearms are in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code. The crimes of abuse of privileges of post and negligence in duties are in accordance with the law on military crimes.

After the reading of the prosecution report, Prosecutor Aleman Cruz proceeded to interrogate defendant Abrantes Fernandez. The session was adjourned after the prosecutor's questions, and after 7 hours of work. The trial will continue this morning.

Attending the oral hearing are leaders of the party, state, mass organizations, Revolutionary Armed Forces, and MININT, as well as journalists from the national press organizations.

Authorities Evict Naturist Group, Arrest Leaders

PA2508021089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0019 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Cuban authorities evicted the Vida Naturist Association [Asociacion Naturista Vida] on 21 August because they considered them illegal occupants. The residents described the measure as a violation of their rights and today went on an "indefinite fast."

Group leader Orlando Polo and his wife Mercedes of the "Green Path" ["Sendero Verde"] ecologist pacifist movement were arrested and taken to Havana's State Security Central Office, dissident sources reported. However, this report has not been officially confirmed.

The group asked that the measure be reconsidered and wants to be officially recognized. It also wants an appointment with "a high-ranking government official" to listen to their demands.

The seized farm, covering 13 hectares, is located in Guanabacoa Municipality, 13 km from Havana.

Official sources attributed their action, carried out on 21 August, to improving social use of the property.

The outlawed Cuban Human Rights Committee issued a note labeling as "arbitrary" the decision against the "strictly pacifist and nonpolitical" group.

The committee's communique noted that other international naturist organizations have been notified.

OAS Meeting on Panama 'New Failure' for U.S.

FL2408175589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The OAS meeting held in Washington in which the Panama conflict was analyzed ended today before dawn without the adoption of any resolution. Nevertheless, a statement was issued establishing the position this regional organization is assuming. In point No. 2 of the document, the OAS expresses its deep concern over the lack of a solution to the crisis but makes very clear that the crisis, and we quote, is solely up to the Panamanians.

It is true that none of the five resolution drafts submitted was approved, but the result of the meeting could be interpreted as a new failure of U.S. intentions. In spite of its enormous capability to exert pressure, the United States has not been able to use the OAS against Panama and turn the organization into a referee of that country's

domestic affairs. The OAS has disregarded the main goals of the United States and has acted with a true sense of political mediation between the Panamanian Government and the opposition. The organization's consultation meeting is now open but the United States—in our opinion—believes that the OAS' efforts to find a solution in Panama suitable to its interests has already failed. Therefore, the situation reinforces the threat of an imminent attack on Panama by the United States as denounced by Cuba. Washington is working very quickly to take this step and the governments of Latin America and the world have the responsibility and the duty to ward off the (?action).

As Cuba has already said, what is at stake here is a much more important and definite principle than the likes or dislikes toward certain men. What is decided here is whether we are truly free and capable of solving our own problems based on the sovereign will of the peoples, or if we are going to go back to the times when a regional police could assume the right to decide what was right or wrong in Latin America and intervene in area countries at will.

Reporters Cover Event 'Despite Yankee Schemes'

FL2408215189 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Despite the U.S. decision to deny visas to the Cuban reporters who were going to cover the Intercontinental Baseball Cup, the Cuban people have received the broadcasts of the event. Next, we give you a report on how it has been possible to broadcast the Intercontinental Baseball Cup to our people.

[Reporter Julia Osendi, identified by caption] The radio and television broadcasts of the Ninth Intercontinental Baseball Cup have reached our country thanks to the joint effort of reporters and technicians who were already in Puerto Rico, the other reporters who were not able to go to that country to cover the event because of the stupid decision made by the Yankee State Department, and other dedicated comrades who work in post-production, the video tape room, the international studio, and Radio Rebelde and Tele-Rebelde broadcast rooms.

We now invite you to take a small tour of these working areas. [video shows master control, post-production, broadcast, recording, and video tape rooms, among others] You have seen how, despite Yankee schemes to prevent our work, the revolutionary tasks of our radio and television services prevail.

'Cyclone' Soviet Laboratory Plane in Final Stage

FL2408153889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1426 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Soviet and Cuban meteorologists have begun the final stage of preparations for joint research aboard the "Cyclone" Soviet laboratory plane.

Specialists will conduct test flights over a period of a week to verify that the scientific instruments, communications equipment, and other instruments aboard the airplane are functioning properly.

The Soviet laboratory plane will take the scientists to the epicenter of powerful hurricanes which frequently develop over the Caribbean Sea. The study of these natural phenomena is one of the fundamental tasks of Soviet and Cuban meteorologists.

Last year, experts from the two countries studied hurricane Gilbert, one of the most violent Caribbean hurricanes of this century. The Soviet plane went to its epicenter several times and collected important scientific data.

Over 130 Internationalists Arrive From Angola

FL2408133389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Over 130 combatants arrived in the fatherland last night. Since the epic times of Calixto Garcia, Agramonte, and Maceo, our soldiers have liked to fulfill their duty. The internationalist combatants returning from Angola have also fulfilled their noble task, the one that exalts, purifies, and immortalizes man. No one will be able to erase the innumerable pages of internationalism from Cuban history. They will live forever together with the revolution because they were born from the revolution, from the example set by Calixto Garcia, Agramonte, and Maceo, who today, symbolized by medals, hang from our combatants lapels.

Italy Donates Equipment in 'Gesture of Solidarity'

FL2508032089 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Cuba has received six backhoes and two tire-mounted hydraulic cranes valued at approximately $1 million from Italy as a gesture of solidarity. This equipment is for the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry.

[Begin recording of Italian Ambassador to Cuba Carlo Civiletti, identified by caption] The idea originated with a natural disaster that occurred last year: the floods in this country. This moved us to want to help in some way [words indistinct] to help repair the damage caused by this natural disaster, along with the help of the United Nations which for its part had done what was necessary. Thus, the Italian Government decided to make a contribution as a gesture of solidarity. Naturally, the equipment can also be used in the development plans of the various sectors of construction.

Also, development cooperation with Cuba has already started with various projects in important sectors such as shrimp breeding and the marble industry. In the future, we hope to continue with other projects of mutual benefit. [end recording]

Medium-Sized Fire Extinguished at Refinery

FL2408135089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] A medium-sized fire was brought under control at the Nico Lopez refinery yesterday after tank No 43 of the second zone, which contained gasoline and was under repair, caught on fire. According to reports supplied by the Interior Ministry's [MININT] Fire Protection General Directorate, the fire began minutes before 2000 and was totally under control after 1 hour and ½ despite the fact that the tank lid was inside the deposit, which made it difficult for the foam to get to the fluid on fire.

Because of the nature of the blaze, the tank on fire and three others next to it had to be cooled off before the operations to put the fire out could begin. The swift action of several special MININT teams and the center's workers prevented the fire from spreading and made it possible for it to be quickly put out. No injuries were reported.

Grenada

Prime Minister Prorogues Parliament Sittings

FL2408122189 Bridgetown CANA in English 2056 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Aug 23, CANA—Grenada's prime minister, Herbert Blaize, has avoided a test of his whittled down parliamentary strength, with an end to parliamentary sittings Wednesday [23 August]. Blaize told Canaradio Parliament had been prorogued "with effect from today," as the government exercised one of the options open to it for pressing ahead with the national "programme that we're working on."

The termination of parliamentary sittings was announced ahead of Friday's [25 August] meeting at which Blaize was to have faced a no-confidence vote the opposition said would have brought down his government. Blaize's party has only six parliamentarians, to the opposition's nine. Blaize's New National Party (NNP) won 14 of the 15 seats at stake in the December, 1984 general election. But resignations and sacking whittled down its parliamentary majority.

The opposition has been pressing Blaize to hold early general elections in view of the crisis in the government. Opposition spokesman George Brizan, a former government minister, said Blaize's ending of parliamentary sessions was "an insult to Grenadians" and to parliamentary democracy. He said Blaize was putting personal interests ahead of national ones.

Blaize gave no indication as to how soon he will call general elections. Constitutionally, he has until March 28, 1990 to call elections.

Haiti

Detectives Summoned To Return Weapons, Cards

FL2408180289 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French No 197, 19-21 Aug 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] In follow-up to the Ministry of Interior and National Defense communique of 19 May 1989, the Port-au-Prince Police has asked the following eighth group of former Dessalines Barracks detectives to bring in to police general headquarters on the Champ de Mars, as soon as possible, the weapons and cards in their possession: Foreman Gerard Augustin, Andre Jean-Louis, Desira Emile, Duchaine Jean-Louis, Theophile Charmant, Marie Andre Rincher, Edouard Louis, Jocelyn Dieujuste, Dieufaite Baptiste, Benjamin Darang, Emile Louis, Marc Boucicaut, Antoine Louis Boucicaut, Serge Antoine, Fedy Desert, Jussien Cyprien, Andre Stepha, Lemy Jimy, Thomas Virgile, Justin Ruben, Serge Degramont, Jean Claude Jean, Joseph Desrosiers, Serge Gustave, Rodrigue Louis, Jean Edouard Prophete, Aneus Fils-Aime, Serge Borgella, Carlo Casseus, Celton Dejean, Rochenel Jules, Deus Derilus, Michel Augier, Guy Augier, Andre Appolon, Varnel Bees, Farnel Bebe, Eleris Valeris, Jean-Robert Jeune, Auprince Athis, Ernest Desrameaux, Eliphete Anatol, Lemiel Esperance.

By order of Colonel Augustin.

[signed] Jodel Lessage, executive officer in charge of public relations.

Group Members Arrested; Leader Charges Repression

FL2408143889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Some 40 soldiers showed up in Champagne, fifth communal section of Le Borgne in northern Haiti, and arrested and beat 14 peasant members of the APN, People's National Assembly. According to Francois Pierre-Louis, one of the APN's leaders, the military sacked and burned the peasants' homes and fields. Pierre-Louis sees these acts as an extension of an entire series of arbitrary acts the government is committing. He considers the military raid (?on) Champagne to be part of the policy of destabilizing and demobilizing peasants and popular organizations.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Pierre-Louis] This is the same old attempt to intimidate people and to repress people's organizations. It hasn't even been 2 weeks since they finally released Jean-Robert Lalanne and Patrick Casimir, whom they had arrested in Cap-Haitien. But now the Avril government has turned on the peasantry itself. I mean, they arrested 14 defenseless peasants and burned their produce and their raggedy little houses. So now what are those people going to do? That is why we of the APN have decided to protest this and ask other people's organizations to contribute their support to stop this kind of thing because the peasants cannot continue to be subjected to this.

[Unidentified reporter] Why do you think these 14 members of the APN were arrested?

[Pierre-Louis] Well, I think the Avril government's tactic is to try to intimidate everyone in the people's organizations, scare them. Champagne is an area where the peasants are constantly protesting against the section chief.

Section chief (Liverdieu Andressie) is a former Tonton Macoute. In fact, his macoute (?identification) card has even been made public. He is constantly being repressive in the area, arresting and abusing the small peasant farmers; and the APN members were constantly protesting these things. Therefore, we think this is part of the repression practiced by the Avril government, because not only are members of the APN being arrested, but members of the MJL [Labadie Youth Movement] are also being arrested. The authorities are even after the young people of Saint Gerard [parish in Port-au-Prince]. Therefore, we think that the Avril government is systematically practicing this action against the popular organizations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Soldiers Implicated in Jeremie Drug-Trafficking

FL2408165189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] A press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that during a police roundup in connection with drug trafficking at the Jeremie airport last 20 July, the following members of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] were caught in flagrante delicto in the company of Mimose Jeanty and Jean Claude Jean. They had 540 kg of pure cocaine in their possession.

The soldiers are: Adjutant (Theophile Delva), FADH, commanding officer of a unit in the tactical company of the Military Department of the Southeast, which is in Jacmel; and FADH enlisted men (Saintil, Reubens), number 33724; (Zetrenn, Maxo), number 39304; and (Bruno, Wilfrid), number 38835. All three of these FADH enlisted men are stationed in the Military District of Petion-Ville.

A preliminary investigation revealed that all these soldiers were involved in perpetrating certain crimes committed (?in this connection). Consequently, they have all been fired from the FADH for unbecoming conduct prejudicial to proper military order and discipline. Since they were involved in drug-trafficking, they have been turned over to the civilian courts for the appropriate legal follow-up.

This is an Information and Coordination Ministry press release on the participation of some FADH members in drug-trafficking activities at the Jeremie airport.

Public Drivers Form New Trade Union in Capital

FL2408152189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] A new drivers union has been formed in Port-au-Prince named the Union Federation of Public Transportation Drivers [Centrale Syndicale des Transporteurs Publics—CSTP]. The CSTP, which is affiliated with the Confederation of Haitian Workers [CTH], says that its principal mission is to raise the living standards of its members and to offer the population better service.

The union federation will be officially inaugurated next Sunday at 1600 at the CTH's headquarters on Rue des Miracles.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Area Public Transport Drivers Union [SCTPM] would like to meet with Public Works Minister Franck Paultre to discuss the continuing deterioration of the nation's roads. In a letter to Paultre, the SCTPM expresses the wish to again discuss problems and to find joint solutions to the deplorable condition of the roads.

*** Search for Sahagun Baca Said To Continue**

*** Coello Trejo on Confusion**

32480194 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 664, 24 Jul 89 pp 12-14, 16-17

[Article by Miguel Cabildo and Raul Monge]

[Text] Francisco Sahagun Baca has not turned up. Either dead or alive.

A little over 2 weeks ago, on Thursday 6 July, newspapers in Morelia and the capital of the Republic reported that the former chief of the Investigative Division for the Prevention of Delinquency (DIPD) had been captured.

Then came the denials from police and judicial authorities: Sahagun Baca had not been arrested, they said at the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR) and the Office of the Attorney General for the Federal District.

But the reports and rumors are there to see:

"Sahagun Cornered," "Sahagun With No Way Out," were the headlines in LA PRENSA and OVACIONES in their editions of Thursday 6 July, while EL SOL DE MORELIA was even more conclusive: "Sahagun Arrested at His Ranch."

According to EL SOL, "Francisco Sahagun Baca was captured" a day after Rafael Chao Lopez, the former commander of the Federal Security Directorate (DFS), was nabbed.

Without mentioning sources of information, reporter Lamberto Hernandez Mendez wrote that the former police chief had been arrested at his Sahuayo ranch and that the 118 properties that he owned in that municipality and in Jiquilpan and Zamora had been confiscated. What is more, he mentioned that he had been arrested for drug trafficking, in which his accomplices were Jose Antonio Zorrilla Perez and Rafael Chao Lopez.

OVACIONES provided some additional information. It reported that even though the PGR had denied that Sahagun Baca was under arrest, "unofficial sources know that he is being interrogated." He was arrested for the Tula River slaughter and drug trafficking ("He is said to have sold protection to important people linked to drug trafficking, besides owning properties on which he stored and trafficked in narcotics").

It also agreed with EL SOL DE MEXICO that the arrest had been made in Sahuayo and that agents of the Federal Judicial Police (PJF) had taken part in the operation. The same article included statements from the PGR's deputy attorney general for investigating and combating drug trafficking, Javier Coello Trejo, in which he denied the account, although he admitted that there was in fact an arrest warrant out for him.

The next day, newspapers in the Federal District (DF) and Morelia reported further on the incident. LA PRENSA went so far as to publish a long article on the operation that had concluded with the capture of the former police chief.

According to the report from its correspondent Moises Rizo Padilla, this is what happened:

"Francisco Sahagun Baca was captured early this morning on his Las Ranas ranch by agents of the Federal Judicial Police, who also seized a large number of high-powered weapons and various kinds of drugs. He was then transferred to PJF holding cells in Mexico City.

"The 'surprise operation' was coordinated by a special group under the command of Commander Larrazolo, with the support of agents stationed in Michoacan and under the orders of Christian Peralta Perez.

"The PGR's regional delegate, Americo Melendez, confirmed Sahagun Baca's arrest and added that it was the result of direct instructions from Mexico City.

"They told me only that early this week a special PJF group would travel to Michoacan to conduct the surprise operation in the municipality of Sahuayo and Zamora, where Sahagun Baca was presumably to be found.

"The operation came off cleanly. No one was injured, but force was needed to subdue the former police chief. After his capture, the ranch was combed, and large amounts of weapons and narcotics such as marijuana and cocaine were found. The official apologized for not specifying the amounts.

"Americo Melendez also reported that 118 properties were confiscated from the former chief of the DIPD in the municipalities of Sahuayo, Jiquilpan, and Zamora. On the Las Ranas ranch, which is nestled in the municipality of Sahuayo, there were several crops and head of cattle, a team of Arabian horses, and between 30 and 40 people who guarded and maintained the place."

This was the LA PRENSA report.

In its evening edition ULTIMAS NOTICIAS published an interview with Roberto Sahagun Cardenas, the former police chief's half-brother, who said: "Sahagun Baca has indeed been arrested" and the police are hiding him.

According to his version, the arrest was made on the morning of Wednesday 5 July, as Sahagun Baca was landing his light plane on the Ojo de Rana ranch (in the municipality of Jiquilpan), which supposedly belongs to congressman-elect Alfredo Anaya Gudino. "Twenty agents surrounded him," he noted.

In the same report Socorro Alfaro and Pablo Figueroa, a district leader of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] and candidate for state congressman (the latter does not appear on the lists of PRD candidates), confirmed that Sahagun Baca had been arrested on the Ojo de Rana ranch, "where 50 hectares of marijuana were being grown under the protection of the mayor and other authorities."

He was arrested reportedly after a 3-day watch at several of his ranches, which according to the sources are not guarded, as has been rumored.

In its account the evening paper underscored that Sahagun Baca's home in Jiquilpan had a complicated telecommunications system with alarms which are activated by the presence of visitors and that the only guards are the servants, the caretakers, the gardeners, and the chauffeur.

Sahagun Contreras [as published] said that his half-brother has been the scourge of Jiquilpan and that this is why he was reported to police. He claimed that he had been mistreated and even kidnaped 6 months ago by Sahagun Baca.

The daily LA JORNADA added to the official and unofficial accounts that emerged in Morelia and were echoed in Mexico City. It attributed its information to "a high-level official of the Judicial Police in the DF" and to a cable from the government's news agency, Notimex. It said: "Francisco Sahagun Baca was arrested at the La Rana ranch in the municipality of Sahuayo at 1700 hours on 6 July and at 2200 hours that same day was taken to the holding cells of the Federal Judicial Police, where he is being questioned about possible links to drug trafficking."

The same article included statements from the circuit delegate of the PGR in Michoacan, Americo Ignacio Melendez Reyna, on the capture of "a major former police chief."

EL SOL DE MORELIA reprinted an item in EL UNIVERSAL that also claimed that Sahagun Baca had been captured at his Sahuayo ranch and immediately transferred to Mexico City.

OVACIONES, in turn, reported that the army, backing up the PJF, was allegedly involved in an operation to enter the El Capulin ranch, which is owned by Francisco Sahagun Baca.

There were fewer reports on Saturday the eighth.

LA PRENSA was still covering the incident, but without as much fanfare. In its Saturday edition it published an interview with Sahagun Baca's half-brother, who reaffirmed his previous statements: "He has been arrested by PJF agents under Commander Jose Luis Larrazolo at the place called Ojo de Rana in the municipality of Marcos Castellanos."

LA VOZ DE MICHOACAN reprinted an item in EXCELSIOR reporting that the former chief of the DIPD had been arrested at his home on the outskirts of Guadalajara and transferred to a PJF holding cell.

The Denials

As soon as word got out that Sahagun Baca had been arrested, police officials hastened to deny it. Far from clarifying matters, however, their arguments fueled speculation and gave rise to doubts as to whether the former police chief was still alive.

The fact is that both the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and the Federal District Attorney General's Office (PGJDF) bungled the case; the PGJDF has in its possession the arrest warrant issued by the 17th criminal-court judge against Sahagun Baca for the Tula affair. The PGR said that he was not under arrest but that it did not know whether other agencies may have captured him. The PGJDF argued likewise.

Doubts mounted after the statements from the circuit delegate of the PGR in Morelia, Americo Ignacio Melendez Reyna, who had reported that drugs and weapons had been seized on Sahagun Baca's ranch.

LA VOZ DE MICHOACAN published statements by the same official in which he confirmed that Sahagun Baca is wanted for a much more serious crime than drug trafficking and the Tula River massacre, that he had been located, and that he would be caught any time now.

On Saturday the eighth LA PRENSA published statements by Americo Melendez himself to the effect that he had never told the correspondent that Sahagun Baca had been arrested. In a later interview with Gerardo Galarza, a PROCESO reporter, Melendez was more explicit. He made these statements:

"I did not take part in any action of that kind, nor did I give information. We do not know whether this gentleman is under arrest. We have no knowledge of this.

"I learned that he was reportedly under arrest from an item in the newspaper LA PRENSA that was sent in by its correspondent and in which he said that I had furnished this information, which is not true.

"Later, Julian Fajardo (a LA PRENSA reporter) spoke to me from Mexico City. He told me about what had been published and explained to me that the item had arrived very late and got in as is. He then asked me if there was anything to it, and I replied: there isn't anything to it, and I don't know where the correspondent got his information.

"You know that if it had been true, there would have been an official press release from Mexico City, from the PGR's central press office. A matter like this would warrant that. Later, the same correspondent got in another article with an interview with Sahagun Baca's brother or half-brother, in which he says that this gentleman had been arrested. And the same article says that I'm suffering from amnesia, because it claims that I provided the information. I didn't provide anything. No one said anything. The proof is that only LA PRENSA published this item; no other newspaper, magazine, or TV station saw it. I think that the correspondent's sources are not reliable."

The correspondent in question, Moises Rizo Padilla, was also interviewed by Galarza in Morelia. He acknowledged that in fact the official had never told him that the former police chief of the DIPD had been arrested. He explained:

"The newspaper (LA PRENSA) told me to investigate the alleged arrest of Sahagun Baca. Rafael Chao Lopez' properties had just recently been searched. The search had been coordinated by Jose Luis Larrazolo Rubio, who is the commander of the Narcotics Division of the PGR. He came to Morelia on 4 or 5 July. On Tuesday the fourth the newspaper notified me of Sahagun Baca's arrest. It was already around 9:30 at night. I called the local circuit office of the PGR and tried to talk with Americo Melendez. They told me that he wasn't in. I wasn't able to find out anything.

"The next day the paper reported that Francisco Sahagun Baca was practically under siege on his Las Ranas ranch in Sahuayo and that there was a PGR operation in Zamora, Jiquilpan, and Sahuayo. That report was done in Mexico City.

"On Wednesday some 10 of us reporters from the local and national media (the elections were just over; the results were coming in, and there were some 100 reporters here in Morelia) went to the local office of the PGR. Initially the PGR delegate refused to say anything. First he said that he knew nothing about the operation. Pressed by the reporters, he stated that he knew only of an operation that was going to be conducted in Morelia against Chao Lopez but that he was unaware of one in the case of Sahagun Baca's arrest because, he said, the PGR conducts these operations directly from the center of the Republic. He was later asked whether he knew about the Chao operation. He said he did, that he had been notified of it and that the local PGR office had even supported it with the group of federal policemen stationed in Morelia under Commander Christian Peralta Perez. Pressed further by the reporters, the PGR delegate neither confirmed nor denied that Sahagun Baca had been arrested, but he did say that drugs and weapons had been confiscated at his ranch. He declined to say more, claiming that the deputy attorney general's office, of which Javier Coello Trejo was in charge, was going to furnish all of the information on Sahagun Baca's alleged arrest.

"In the press room that had been set up in the Morelia Convention Center for the elections, the group of reporters wrote up an account of the interview with Americo Melendez, which was distributed to all of them.

"Then we went to the office of the state's attorney. There, in State Attorney Ricardo Color Romero's office, we were told that the state office had not heard about the operation (against Sahagun Baca) and, therefore, had not taken part. Having heard this, we left. Later, outside the office I happened to run into Color Romero and asked him about the Sahagun Baca affair. He told me that he had heard nothing about the operation.

"With all of this material I wrote up the news item that day (when he was arrested). At the paper (LA PRENSA) we contacted Humberto Huerta and asked him to check the information with all of our reporters at the police source. We rounded out the news item among all of us.

"As for the news item that I wrote up, it's as simple as this: I wasn't the only one who did. The great majority of national and local papers wrote it up in the same way. It was no invention. Luis Muniz, the LA PRENSA news editor, remarked to me that at least 10 newspapers had written it up. It was pure intuition with me, based on several pieces of evidence, such as the fact that the Federal Judicial Police group under Commander Larrazolo had been in Morelia a day before. It was clear that they had come to Michoacan not just to search Chao Lopez' properties but were on other missions."

In the ensuing days there were more official denials. The attorney general for the Federal District, Ignacio Morales Lechuga, said that Sahagun Baca was not being detained in one of his department's holdings cells, "but I cannot say whether he is at some military camp."

Interviewed at the presidential hangar, he asserted that preventing people from committing crimes of common jurisdiction with impunity is one of the main goals of the present administration in its bid to modernize the administration of justice.

LA VOZ DE MICHOACAN reported again on Sunday the ninth: "The PGR denied that Francisco Sahagun has been arrested but admitted that they are after him for a matter involving weapons trafficking.

"Confidential information from high-level intelligence sources indicates that Sahagun Baca was trying to ship weapons to Central America, presumably to Salvadoran guerrillas, with the Nazi Gerard Merthins as his contact. The latter was investigated by the Mexican authorities as an alleged principal in the murder of Manuel Buendia."

Coello Trejo himself closed the door on the matter. He stated that the whole thing was the result of confusion among the residents of Sahuayo, "because while they thought that we had captured Sahagun Baca, the operation was really to seize the assets of Chao Lopez, who had a ranch there."

Several agents, he added, went to the La Rana ranch but did not capture Sahagun Baca. "We arrived heavily armed, fearing that we would run across several of Chao Lopez' men. We met no resistance, though, and the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office seized the property lawfully."

He then noted: "The PJF and other police forces in the country and in other nations are continuing the search for the former director of the DIPD."

[Box, p 13]

In October 1984 the Secretariat of Foreign Relations issued a passport in the name of Francisco Sahagun Baca,

ignoring the arrest warrant drawn up by the 17th criminal-court judge, Roberto Villasenor. The photograph on the cover is the same one that appears in his passport.

* Early Career Details

32480194 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 664, 24 Jul 89 pp 12-13

[Article by Miguel Cabildo]

[Text] Putting Francisco Sahagun Baca in charge of the Investigative Division for the Prevention of Delinquency was another favor that President Jose Lopez-Portillo did for his friend Arturo Durazo Moreno.

A fugitive from justice (for helping a group of drug traffickers flee in late 1975 when he was serving as commander of the Federal Judicial Police in Hermosillo, Sonora), Sahagun Baca fled to Spain, where he was closely monitored by the head of INTERPOL [International Criminal Police Organization] in Mexico, Florentino Ventura.

Durazo Moreno, whom Lopez Portillo had named chief of the metropolitan police, urged the president to grant Sahagun Baca a "safe-conduct pass" which enabled him to return to Mexico. Ventura never forgave the insult. But he restrained his anger for 6 years, until he finally captured Durazo Moreno, his lifelong enemy.

Once in the DIPD [Investigative Division for the Prevention of Delinquency], Sahagun Baca gradually began replacing the people who were once part of the secret service. Rafael Rocha Cordero, the current director of the Judicial Police of the Federal District, was one who suffered under the domineering "young" investigator, as he was forced to retire without further ado.

Those who remember him when he headed the DIPD underscore his eccentricities. His wealth. His cruel behavior. Police corruption.

A migraine sufferer, Sahagun Baca practically holed himself up in his offices on Tlaxcoaque. His fear of being murdered at any time made him distrustful, fearful, aggressive, irascible. Three attacks on him and his family made him distrust even his closest colleagues, with the exception of Don Guille, Guillermo Sanchez Sanchez, a lifelong faithful servant.

He ate nothing that was not prepared by Don Guille. He drank nothing that was not served to him by Don Guille. He wore no clothing that had not been selected for him by Don Guille. He took no medicine that was not given him by Don Guille. Strangely enough, he received communion every day even though Don Guille did not supply the hosts.

As religious as they come, Sahagun Baca had become the patron of several convents both in Mexico City and in Sahuayo, Michoacan, his home state. One of his sisters is a nun. He attended all of the religious ceremonies to which they invited him. Every day as he walked by the church on Tlaxcoaque, he crossed himself and gave an offering. He often spoke with the parish priests. He would say good-by to his close friends with a "May God bless you."

With a gang of die-hard supporters, most of them now fugitives from justice or under arrest, Sahagun cracked down hard on crime, which enabled him to always have a "full house." The holding cells on Tlaxcoaque saw their best days. Jailings, beatings, kidnapings, torture, and murders multiplied, disguised as actions to protect the citizenry.

His work team (Miguel Angel Fernandez Serrato, Arturo Cisneros Shaffer, Carlos Bosques Zarazua, and Manuel Cavazos, among many others) entered the Investigative Division for the Prevention of Delinquency "with documents waived." Their criminal records were overlooked.

His office was among the busiest; artists, politicians, businessmen, bankers, and journalists came to know his eccentricities. Starting early in the morning 1 liter a day of perfume was sprayed in every corner of his office, his inner sanctum, the elevator, the bathroom, his dressing room, the entire half-floor that he occupied on Tlaxcoaque.

His tailor was Alex Conde, who had a lot of work to do, because Sahagun Baca changed suits and shirts three or four times a day. And at least twice a year he completely remodeled his office, which was always carpeted in light colors.

Singing, which was regarded as just another eccentricity of his, took second place to his favorite hobby: collecting scale-model electric trains, with which he entertained himself in his free time.

Many of the people with whom he lived and who were his buddies and friends are now behind bars. His buddies Carlos Aguilar Garza and Rafael Chao Lopez top the list. There was also "Guera" Sofia, whom he called "La guera guerrillera" [the light-skinned guerrilla], Juan Rafael Moro Avila Camacho, and Alberto Estrella. Another of his friends was Americo Melendez, the regional delegate of the PGR [Office of the Attorney General of the Republic] in Michoacan, to whom some media attributed the news of Sahagun Baca's capture.

Besides eccentricities, he had many businesses, which were run by Jose Cordoba Lemus, who for a time was an agent of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. Ranches, hotels, pharmacies, restaurants, and residences in Mexico City, Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Hermosillo, and Sahuayo make up his lengthy list of holdings.

* Family Claims Harassment

32480194 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 664, 24 Jul 89 pp 14-15

[Article by Rodrigo Vera]

[Text] Sahuayo, Michoacan—Neither his own family nor the local press, not even state judicial officials, know

whether the former director of the now defunct Investigative Division for the Prevention of Delinquency, Francisco Sahagun Baca, was apprehended here on 6 July.

The only thing certain is that the Federal Judicial Police is harassing and kidnaping relatives and friends of the man who was once Arturo Durazo Moreno's trusted associate and who is implicated in the Tula River massacre.

"We don't know whether he was really arrested," says his half-brother Rogelio Sahagun Cardenas. "What's going around are just rumors."

He adds that Francisco did not even live in Sahuayo, as is still being claimed. "At least I never saw him after 1983, which was when the authorities started looking for him. Some people say they've seen him drive by in his station wagon, though. Who knows? I don't."

A member of one of the oldest and most respected families in the region, Francisco is now regarded by his relatives as a man apart:

"We have very little to do with him. I never cultivated his friendship," adds the ruddy, gray-haired Sahagun Cardenas, fearful of any connection that might compromise him.

And with good reason. Judicial Police agents have the paternal home of "Don Pancho" (as Francisco is called here) under constant surveillance. His mother, Jesusita Baca, his sister Araceli Sahagun Baca, and her husband and children live there. They are all victims of police harassment.

"We live in sheer dread," Federico Gomez, Araceli's husband and the brother-in-law of the former DIPD [Investigative Division for the Prevention of Delinquency] director, told PROCESO when it interviewed him in the spacious courtyard with white arches.

"The agents turn up everywhere on us. They have the house surrounded. Sometimes they even follow us when we leave. We're afraid of what might happen to us. Neither my wife nor my mother-in-law nor I owe anything. Pancho is a separate matter, and we're not to blame for his actions. We have nothing to do with him. I don't know where he is. I haven't seen him for 6 years."

As far as he is concerned, Jesusita Baca has been affected the most; now in her 80's, she fell ill on account of the police siege and the uncertainty about her son's fate. "The news that the press is putting out, which is almost always groundless, has also hurt her," Federico Gomez adds nervously.

"The worst thing of all is the uncertainty," he says. "I would like to think that he's still free, because if he were really under arrest, why wouldn't the authorities show him in public, as they did with Zorrilla or La Quina? And why are they watching us as if we were hiding him?"

He then voices the suspicion that weighs the heaviest on them:

"Maybe they've kidnaped him and are holding him in some clandestine jail."

He does not consider the hypothesis preposterous. He remembers the recent kidnaping of Magdalena Sahagun Hermosillo, Aurelio Sanchez, and Maria Tejada by Federal Judicial Police agents this past Wednesday the 12th.

That morning the three were getting set to open the store where they work, the "La Guadalupana" pharmacy, which is run by Magdalena Sahagun, Francisco's niece, when they were headed off by several Judicial Police agents, who immediately forced them into a vehicle. They drove off to the Federal Judicial Police offices in the town of Jacona. There, they asked for their personal particulars and kept them completely incommunicado in the same office for 3 days.

"They didn't even let us notify our homes," recalls Aurelio Sanchez, a medical student who is training at "La Guadalupana."

While the kidnap victims were subjected to intense interrogation as to Sahagun Baca's whereabouts, their relatives went to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic in Mexico City to inquire about them. They were told nothing there.

It was not until Friday the 14th that another group of agents personally left them at their homes.

"The ones they interrogated the most were Magdalena Sahagun and Maria Tejada. They had them in a room for a long time questioning them. They never beat us or threatened us with guns, though," adds Aurelio Sanchez.

Roberto Sahagun Cardenas, another of Pancho's half-brothers, is under surveillance. The ranch that he owns in the "Ojo de Rana" community a little over 30 km from here is also being watched closely by the Judicial Police. There are rumors that Francisco used it to grow marijuana. What is more, narcotics units were said to have arrived in Jiquilpan on Thursday the 20th to check this out. For the time being nothing has been confirmed.

Nor is it certain that Sahagun Baca has been apprehended. Even the state Judicial Police agents, headed here by the group chief, Eladio Tapia Jacuinde, have been unable to confirm the rumor:

"They sent us from Morelia to investigate. But so far we haven't found out anything. Some say that he was. Many others say that he wasn't. Who knows. So far it's just blah, blah, blah. And people refuse to cooperate with us. They're afraid to speak out," remarks Juan Vazquez, one of the agents in charge of the investigation.

He goes on to say:

"If they really did nab him, it was either Interpol or the Federal Judicial Police, which came from Mexico City

on a special PGR [Office of the Attorney General of the Republic] operation. There is no other possibility."

According to the accounts that he was captured, Sahagun Baca was arrested on his "El Capulin" ranch high up in a mountainous region 17 km from Jiquilpan. His hideout was reportedly there, patrolled by armed guards and trained attack dogs.

The winding dirt road that leads to "El Capulin" begins right after the zone known as "El Bosque," which Lazaro Cardenas bequeathed to the people of Jiquilpan and to his son Cuauhtemoc.

In the wake of the harassment by the Judicial Police, the 280-hectare property, ringed by barbed wire, has been completely abandoned. The stables, the enormous cage for deer, and the white, red-tiled house decorated with solid colonial-style wooden furniture are empty.

The huge chapel, with the virgin of Guadalupe in front, is also abandoned. The floodgates on the private dam that irrigated the peach orchards and provided water for the cattle are open. It is all over.

A peasant, Jose Martin Vargas, wanders absent-mindedly in the vicinity asking for Sergio Sahagun Baca, Pancho's brother and the man in charge of the estate:

"I'm looking for him because he owes me a month's salary. But it looks like he's been hiding since the Judicial Police got here."

The Sahagun family wants nothing to do with the ranch at this point:

"I ran it for 2 years. But I left because I don't want to make trouble for myself," says Federico Gomez.

And Rogelio Sahagun Cardenas asserts that he has never set foot there. "I live humbly but with peace of mind. I don't even own my own home. But that's no reason for me to think ill of my half-brother. Everybody lives his own life. There's no reason for us to call him the black sheep of the family."

Nor do they want to talk about the 3,000-square meter residence that Pancho had built in Sahuayo when he was commander of the Federal Judicial Police. The several-story, Mexican-colonial style home with buttressed swimming pool was said to have been the scene of lavish parties for wealthy farmers and cattlemen of the region, and people reportedly came from Guadalajara and Mexico City for the merry-making, while the police looked feverishly for the host (PROCESO 493).

Located in the "La Puntita" district, the huge arch-ringed home is empty too. The Sahagun family does not want to touch it.

Francisco is the son of a prestigious family that arrived in Sahuayo last century. His grandfather, Pascual Sahagun, was Sahuayo's first physician and is still remembered fondly. His uncle, Dr Enrique Sahagun Cortes, left his mark by founding Sacred Heart and Santa Maria hospitals here. He is still alive and has just completed 50 years of medical service; he wants nothing to do with his nephew.

Another of his uncles, the painter Luis Sahagun Cortes, had the "Petrita Cortes de Sahagun" House of Culture built in Sahuayo. He also built the art gallery that is currently in the Salesian seminary here.

Even the bishop of Lazaro Cardenas, Jesus Sahagun de la Parra, belongs to the family. At present many of the Sahaguns are physicians and pharmacists who are well respected in the region.

Pancho also helped his town, trying to follow the example of his forebears. No sooner had he taken up his post as director of the DIPD than he paid for the construction of the Retirement Home in Sahuayo and later set up a trust to maintain it. He also contributed large sums to the Convent of the Adoratrices.

Whenever he arrived from the capital, city officials welcomed him warmly. He gave away patrol cars and uniforms to the police and helped build roads, like the one to the "Ojo de Rana" ranch. He did what he could for his native region.

During Sahuayo's December fair in the town square he would bring in singers and comedians from the capital and with them put on free shows for the people, just for the pleasure of seeing them have fun.

This is why everyone is now wondering what truth there is to the talk of his arrest. The local papers here carried nothing about it, except the statements by the deputy attorney general, Javier Coello Trejo, denying that he had been captured. Nothing was said about how the alleged arrest was made or about who was involved in it.

"No one saw anything. We found out from the television news," says Raul Amezcua Sanchez, the editor of the Sahuayo-based weekly TRIBUNA.

"What information could we get here? There was no one to interview. There are no witnesses to testify that at least they saw the events from a distance. There was no sense reporting on the vague rumors coming from Mexico City. Something similar had happened before. Two or three years ago there was a rumor that he had been caught in the city of Uruapan. And it turned out to be a lie."

He assumes that this time there was confusion because of the deployment of the army that monitored the recent elections in Michoacan and that was in Sahuayo until Tuesday the 11th. "Its presence may have been misinterpreted. How should I know! Also, I don't think that Francisco would have been stupid enough to stay at his ranch after learning what happened to Zorrilla and La Quina and especially knowing that there was already talk that he was hiding there."

El Salvador

Protest to Nicaragua for Supporting Guerrillas

PA2508001989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2308 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Government protested "vigorously" to Nicaragua today over the aid that that country has continued to extend to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

In a note to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Orlando Valdivieso accused the Sandinist Government of failing to keep its promise to "refrain from lending its territory to the guerrillas and from providing military, logistical, financial, and propaganda aid to them."

In the letter, Valdivieso maintains that despite the agreement signed by President Daniel Ortega in Tela, Honduras, early this month, Nicaragua has continued to lend its territory to the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

According to the note, the offices of Radio Venceremos, the official FMLN voice, a guerrilla printing press, and the headquarters of rebel organizations are in Managua.

Moreover, Valdivieso charged that an FMLN logistical base, which is used for the transshipment of weapons to El Salvador, is still operating in El Realejo, Estero Paso Caballo, on Cosiguina Peninsula in Nicaragua.

At the Tela summit, the Central American presidents pledged to demobilize the Nicaraguan contras and urged the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas to seek a negotiated solution to the conflict that has been ongoing in that country for the past decade.

In addition, the presidents pledged not to cooperate with or allow their territory to be used by armed groups that are destabilizing other countries.

President Cristiani on National Rescue Plan

PA2508035189 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Speech to the nation by President Alfredo Cristiani; place not given—live]

[Text] Good evening, Salvadoran people. On this occasion, we would like to talk a little bit about the social aspect of our national rescue plan.

I would like to begin my message by referring to some statements made by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II has talked about the existence of a virtuous circle. The initial component of that virtuous circle is economic growth. Pope John Paul II's idea is that economic growth leads to the creation of jobs and jobs produce income for people. In time, income allows people to fulfill their basic needs. When this process reaches the entire society, it results in justice and equity.

We believe the creation of a virtuous circle must begin with a vigorous economic model. In our opinion, that economic model must follow the rules of a market economy. We, however, believe that in every society—and the Salvadoran society is no exception—there are some groups, which despite economic development and everything that economic development entails, cannot join that development and enjoy the benefits the virtuous circle offers. In other words, those groups lack the capacity to ride the vehicle of progress and well-being.

We will call those groups of extreme poverty. These groups include people who cannot fulfill their basic needs. If we do not make a special effort to help those people, they will never ride the vehicle of progress.

For that reason, from the very beginning of our government, we stated that the only ones who would benefit and receive privileges during this government would be the most needy of the needy. Those are the ones who comprise the extremely poor.

Unfortunately, El Salvador has lived through 10 years during which economic growth has registered negative balances, and the number of people who live in extreme poverty has increased significantly. At present, it is estimated that the Salvadoran society includes 330,000 families who live in extreme poverty. We cannot let that go unnoticed. In the past, we have experienced much destruction.

There is destruction due to bad economic models that were implemented. There is destruction due to the irrational violence of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. Although it is certainly not easy to build after so much destruction, we must start building a fatherland that will not have extreme poverty. In addition, we find that far from helping the people who truly need help—those who are the poor among the poorest—the social systems and programs that have been implemented in the past have always had regressive characteristics. What does this mean? In spite of the fact that the programs were apparently for the benefit of those with lower incomes, these programs ended up helping those who had enough or too much.

Such is the case, for example, of the Social Fund for Housing [FSV] program. Persons with a minimum source of income, that is, persons earning a minimum wage, had to pay dues to the FSV, hoping to some day have the credit available in order to buy adequate housing for their families. However, what has happened with this program? That individual is denied credit because, in the first place, he cannot make the down payment, and in the second place, he would have very high monthly payments.

Therefore, we see that this is regressive. These people, who constitute the majority of those who pay dues to the FSV, are providing money so that those who have more resources can make use of those funds and loans. We must eliminate this. We at the governmental level, and

all others who have something, must show solidarity with the poor who live in extreme poverty.

Here, we again want to stress what we need in the fatherland. What this country needs is a huge dose of solidarity. Those of us who have something must realize that it is more just to help those who have less, or nothing, including those who cannot buy or purchase anything at all. That is the responsibility of all Salvadorans. Our government wants to use that example, the example that we must work for those persons, those persons with lesser resources. We also believe that we must all actively participate in solving the problems of the extreme poor so that they can join the bandwagon of development and join the virtuous circle that His Holiness John Paul II refers to. In order to do this, we must develop several programs, but not the ones that will separate one goal from another. These must be overall programs that will solve all of those problems that affect the extreme poor, and allow them to emerge from that state.

Dear Salvadorans: This is how we have tried to develop, despite the short time we have been in power, a number of programs that we are going to call the National Rescue Plan. We seek to reduce the number of families living in extreme poverty, and to strengthen the family nucleus of that group. We have always said that the basis of society is the family, that the woman is the backbone of that nucleus, and the children are the future of our fatherland.

We also seek to provide sufficient instruments by which those persons—on their own—can join the bandwagon, achieve development and greater levels of well-being for themselves and their families. Therefore, dear televiewers, please allow me today to provide a summary of the National Rescue Plan.

First, we have the temporary work program. We have already briefly outlined this program. It goes into effect during those times when there is less work, especially in the rural areas. We know that during the harvest the number of jobs increases, but there are seasons when jobs are scarce and we cannot absorb the entire labor force.

We must also understand that an economic model does not bring results overnight but takes time. That is why we prepared this temporary work program. Our goal is to be able to give temporary jobs to those who right now do not even have the opportunity to earn an honest living for themselves and their families. Our goal is to provide 20,000 temporary jobs per month. During the first phase, the jobs will be coordinated by the Public Works Ministry since the work we do must always have a social goal, such as keeping some infrastructure in good condition, doing work for the benefit of the country's various communities, improving the ecology, and reforesting our fatherland—something it really needs. In sum, these works should benefit someone else while at the same time providing opportunities for 20,000 Salvadorans to make an honest living.

Second, we have the low-cost housing program. I mentioned earlier the problems we experienced. That is why we have developed a special program for those people who cannot buy a house. A home, after all, is something that strengthens the family. A good home strengthens the family, but also allows people to solve health and sanitary problems and helps people improve their personal, spiritual, and moral lives. The goal of the housing program is to build 6,000 low-cost houses during the first phase. Each house will cost no more than 30,000 colones. The program, however, includes mechanisms through which those who prove they cannot afford to buy a 30,000-colon house can still obtain one without a down payment. That person will be told that if his current income is not enough to pay his monthly mortgage, the state will issue a subsidy certificate to cover the payment. The value of the certificate will gradually decrease, but will give the homeowner time to get on the bandwagon of development and increase his income. In the end, he will be able to pay by himself the monthly installments he cannot pay by himself now.

We plan to begin this program with those whose needs were not totally met after the 1986 earthquake. The first phase of the program will be chiefly directed at caring for those whose homes were damaged during the earthquake and now do not have decent homes. However, this program will be reinforced in the future with a property lot program provided with utilities. We are planning to enter the rural areas with this program. We are going to seek rural areas that are close to municipalities to grant parcels of land that have electricity, drinking water, and sewer services to persons who lack these facilities. In conclusion, over the medium term, we will promote and begin a rural housing program.

The third program, which the vice president and interior minister have already explained at length, is the National Food Program [Program Alimentario Nacional] PAN. The objectives of this program include providing free food to persons who are most likely to suffer nutritional and health problems. For persons in other groups who are able to contribute something, we will have a food-for-work program. Through the food-for-work program, we also will be improving communities, because the work will be devoted to local projects that will benefit the entire community.

The three main programs are: the mother-child program, directed at the hundreds of thousands of children who have no possibilities of developing because they are born with malnutrition. This program includes targeting mothers during the prenatal period, and nutritional treatment for the mother and child after birth so that the child can develop healthily.

We also want poor school age children to have better nutrition. Therefore, we will implement a school nutritional program at schools in extreme poverty areas.

We also want to reiterate that one of our main objectives is to create jobs. In that regard, we must make good use of food donations received from international organizations in order to create jobs. In that sense, during the first phase of the program we will distribute 60,000 quintales

of corn, 100,000 quintales of rice, 42,000 quintales of beans, 500,000 cans of powdered milk, 460,000 gallons of vegetable oil, and 795 tons of canned goods, which will be used in nutritional programs.

We will also implement an urban community development program. This program is aimed at encouraging the participation of communities in their own development. When someone requests benefits or improvements, we also want that person to participate by recommending actions. We are sure that those of you who live in depressed areas—as they are called in our country—know what your needs are. We want you to tell us about your needs, to freely express your needs. We will accept your demands and try to fill those needs.

This program will be held in 200 communities living in extreme poverty—the depressed areas I mentioned before—and will include 16 municipalities in our country, mainly in the metropolitan area of San Salvador. The municipalities that will hold the programs: Mejicanos, San Marcos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, Cuidad Delgado, Ilopango, Soyapango, San Martin, Apopa, Antiguo Cuscatlan, Panchimalco, San Salvador, San Miguel, Santa Ana, Nueva San Salvador and La Libertad. We believe that it is in those urban sectors where the most depressed areas exist.

This program is divided into two phases: The first phase will be implemented soon. Next week we will start holding town meetings not at the municipal level, but at the community level so that those of you who live in those areas can tell us what work you feel is necessary for your communities. First of all, we will try to take basic services to those communities, in other words, electricity, potable water, community houses, sewers, health centers, and paved roads. In sum, we want those communities to have necessary sanitary and health conditions in order to contribute to child and family development.

We also want to request the active participation of the mayors of these municipalities in this program because we also believe that it is time for the central government, the government of the Republic, to delegate responsibilities so that solutions can be handled at a lower level—at the level they should be handled. That is why we want mayors to work with us in this program too, as you perhaps will be the ones who will work hardest for the poorest communities.

The second phase of this program calls for strengthening family income in those same communities. We will create nursery homes, so that mothers ...[changes thought] there are so many single mothers here in El Salvador who must work and have no place to leave their children. There should be nursery homes so that they can go to work.

We plan to build dining halls for the poor in their communities so that everyone has the chance to eat. Someone from the community can even provide the service and become a small businessman. We plan to build health centers with the medicines that are essential for the treatment of the most common diseases, such as colds and diarrhea. We plan to grant loans to small business owners.

We want the entire community to become a source of development. The community already has the opportunity to obtain something. Why not produce things in each of the communities? We believe we can grant loans to people so they can build their own repair shops, bakeries, or small stores in their communities. We want development to start within each community. This way they will all be able to join the national development process.

From then on, people will have the chance to develop themselves. All Salvadorans must promote this and help people achieve this.

There is also a certain area of the country that has suffered the most in the last 10 years, eastern El Salvador. It includes San Miguel, Usulutan, La Union, and Morazan Departments. That is why we have drafted the plan called Eastern 89 [Oriente 89], and we have already had the pleasure and honor of being in San Francisco Gotera to inaugurate the first phase of the project. This phase will be developed in 18 municipalities in Morazan Department. Little by little, we will extend this program until the muncipalities of the four departments are working on this plan. These works are similar to the ones conducted by the municipalities-in-action program, based on the open town council meetings in each community. It is more or less the same as the municipalities-in-action program, but it will be intensified in each department, which will receive 40 million colons for infrastructure work and community development work.

In addition, we have two additional programs, which we believe will diminish the effects of the economic problems. First, we have a program for the importing of foods. We assumed control of the government with practically no cereal inventory, and we believe the government has a duty to take the necessary precautions. In this regard, to reduce the cost of the family basket to an acceptable level, we have already taken steps to import 1 million quintals of corn, 100,000 quintals of beans, and 1,000 tons of powdered milk. We believe that with these imports, and in view of the fact that our crops will soon be harvested, current prices will drop. We hope prices will also stabilize.

In 1990 we are going to modify the personal income-tax system. We believe that we must allow persons with lower incomes to have greater purchasing power. What we are actually going to do is modify the tax tables so that those earning less than 18,000 colones per year will be exempt from paying income tax. At present, only those earning 12,000 colones per year are exempt. Those earning between 12,000 and 18,000 colone currently paying income tax at an approximately 10-percent rate. As of January, those persons earning 18,000 colones or less will no longer have to pay taxes, and therefore will not have any payroll deductions.

Salvadoran people, this social rescue program is an effort undertaken by the government to comply with one of its basic principles: to help extremely poor people. We are going to try to reduce the number of poor people, and we want more Salvadorans to join the development process.

We are going to try to express in figures the effort we are making so people can see the extent to which the government is willing to help the neediest. The temporary jobs program will receive $20 million colones; the low-cost housing program 180 million colones; the national food program 446 million colones. Food imports will total 35 million colones. The urban community development program will be allotted 100 million colones; and the 1989 Eastern Region program 160 million colones.

Television viewers, this makes a total of 941 million colones that our goverment will put at the service of the extreme poor. We believe this is possible thanks to the great efforts and determination of the cabinet members who designed an overall social development program. We also believe that an honest government that properly manages the scarce funds the state has available can afford to allot these sums—almost 1 billion colones—to benefit those who we promised will receive the most benefits: the poorest of the poor.

Dear Salvadorans: I would like to end this program not just by thanking you for listening to us tonight. I also want to appeal to your solidarity. We are fully aware that we are in the midst of a crisis. However, there are a large number of people who have no means to face the crisis. Today it is the task of all to help those sectors. Let us show solidarity. Let us help these people join the national development plan. This way, we are certain that you, and we in the government, will little by little, but with determined steps, build a better fatherland. May God bless you. Good night.

* Agriculture Minister Describes Reform Effort

3248019Ic San Salvador PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 4 Jul 89 pp 2, 26

[Text] The head of the MAG [Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock] has declared that never in the nation's history has agricultural production been so depressed, noting that the most disturbing aspect of this is that the country's economic reactivation can result only from this sector.

The holder of that portfolio, Antonio Cabrales, added that the most critical area of the agricultural-livestock sector is cotton, a crop that in previous years was planted on 150,000 manzanas, and last year on only 18,000, whereas for the present, he reported, the MAG has recorded only 14,000 manzanas.

Coffee will have its worst harvest this year, because it will total only 1.7 million quintales. Sugar is also a serious problem, because as many as 50,000 manzanas were planted with it previously, and this year the area is far smaller.

Livestock shows a depressing situation, because even cows have been the target of terrorists. The national herds, which contained 1.3 million head of cattle in 1978, have undergone a reduction to about 600,000 head, which means that half of the national herds and the work of five or six generations of livestock raisers have been lost.

There Is Enthusiasm

Cabrales noted that, with the advent of the Cristiani government, great enthusiasm and strong faith in the future have been aroused among the agricultural and livestock sector. Now, there is even a shortage of people to work in many parts of the country.

He claimed that this enthusiasm was warranted, because more fertilizer was sold during the last 2 months than during May and June of the 10 previous years. Farmers are planting coffee and more staple grains, and there are people importing livestock. Hence, there is great enthusiasm, because people think that this government will respect private property, and for this reason they are willing to invest and work in order to win the battle of production.

Agrarian Reform Will Not Stagnate

He added that this did not mean that agrarian reform would become stagnant. "On the contrary, we are seeking more funds from international agencies to be deposited in the 'Land Bank' that will be created within Finata [National Financial Organization of Agricultural Land], in order to continue purchasing properties, because Finata has a bid for the sale of 800 properties with a total of 167,000 manzanas. This the type of agrarian reform that we shall promote, with freedom of sale for those wishing to sell, and freedom of purchase for those wishing to purchase.

"The only thing we have to do is provide the funds to make the land transfers, because what has been done is done, and the agrarian reform is irreversible."

Agrarian Debt Is Very Large

Cabrales claims that there is an enormous agrarian debt, and it is not the land debt, because the farmers have a 50-year period to pay for that at low interest.

The debt that is distressing, because it has the financial system in a difficult situation, consists of the production credit that the cooperatives have received during the past 9 years.

There are but few cooperatives, perhaps 19, that can pay for their credit given in advance, both the interest and the principal. The majority of these are coffee growers.

Others can only pay the interest, but not the principal on the production credit. But most of the cooperatives lack the ability to pay, and many of them have been completely abandoned.

Therefore, this government wants to give the farmer the freedom to choose what is best for him and his family: to decide whether he wants to be a cooperative member or prefers to work individually.

"In giving the farmer this freedom to decide what is best for him we shall begin a 'revolution' in agrarian reform, so that it will become more efficient within a few years, and so that the farmer will be more responsible, and the state will cease to be paternalistic."

He concluded by saying: "The farmers have not failed in the agrarian reform, nor have the technicians, because they are the experts in growing corn and beans. What has failed has been the system, the collective system of cooperatives that has not worked anywhere in the world."

* Outlook for Cotton; Effect of Decline Discussed

32480191b San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish
5 Jul 89 p 2

[Text] San Salvador, 5 July 1989 (SISAL)—As SISAL was told by the president of the Cotton Growers Cooperative, Ulises Fernandez Gonzalez, the country failed to accrue some 500 million colones by way of foreign currency from 1979 to 1988, owing to the drastic reduction in the number of manzanas planted with cotton.

In 1979 the number of manzanas planted with cotton totaled 130,000. The next year that area was reduced to 80,000, because 50,000 manzanas were allocated for corn. This occurred with the agrarian reform, when the president of the Government Junta was Jose Napoleon Duarte, who claimed that it was more important to grow corn than cotton because the people needed corn for food.

In this connection Ulises Fernandez Gonzalez comments:

"Perhaps he didn't realize that the oil that is the staple of the Salvadoran people's food diet is extracted from cotton seed, and also that the meal from cotton seed is used as feed for poultry and both dairy and beef cattle, as well as for fattening hogs. Since then, and up until the present, cotton growing has been declining."

In commenting on the cotton planting started this week, Dr Fernandez Gonzalez said that it would barely amount to about 14,000 manzanas, representing approximately 10 percent of what was planted 10 years ago.

Noting that the guarantee price of 160 colones per quintal of raw cotton set recently by the Cristiani government has been met with satisfaction by the cotton sector, he explained that if Duarte had lent that support 3 or 4 months ago, the number of manzanas planted would have risen considerably.

He explained that it was impossible at present to attain the volumes planted in 1979 (130,000 manzanas), but that the cotton producers expect to achieve about 70,000 (slightly over half), according to a study by Fusades [Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development] in which he participated last year.

As he explained, this would be beneficial to the nation's economy, because neither fiber for the factories, nor raw material for the oil and concentrates for cattle and poultry would be imported any longer. Furthermore, the surpluses would be exported and would generate foreign currency.

He pointed out that, in the past, cotton seed production had totaled 2.5 million quintales, and that it is currently between 200,000 and 250,000 quintales.

In conclusion, the president of the Cotton Growers Cooperative expressed the union's gratification at the talks that it has held with President Cristiani, "who is a believer in cotton growing, and knows its benefits from the standpoint of employment and foreign exchange."

* Study Cites Population's Poor Living Standard

32480191a San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish
8 Jul 89 p 6

[Text] According to various socioeconomic analyses, the Salvadoran family subsists under appalling living conditions making it impossible to meet its basic needs, including health, education, and housing, with no hope of this disastrous situation's being overcome in the short term.

Based upon those studies, one would have to begin by considering the fact that the unemployment and underemployment rate exceeds 70 percent among the economically active population (EAP), which means that the right to a decent job has become a privilege.

The University of El Salvador's Institute of Economic Research (Inve) notes in its recent publication, "Current Economic Trends," that an average family needs over 2,000 colones per month to fill the "basic food basket," with the aggravating factor of an immoderate hike in prices.

It claims: "The cost of food in the basket for 1978 was 224.46 colones per month; 10 years later, this amount has increased by about 513 percent," while the wages of workers in both the public and private sectors have not shown any major changes.

Furthermore, according to the report, what abounds in the country is not sources of employment but, on the contrary, their closing. Over 3,000 workers were laid off during the past year for various reasons, one being the definitive shutdown of production centers.

There persists the threat that state health centers may be closed, because the ministry lacks sufficient funds to

support them, and the medical and paramedical personnel, who are insufficient in number for the size of the population, are complaining of not finding employment.

Salvadoran children are victims of scourges that could be surmounted with efficient programs: 400 children die of malnutrition every week; the probability of death before completing the first year of life is 70.8 per 1,000; 50 percent of children show some degree of malnutrition, etc.

As for education, Inve claims that, of the 2 million children and adolescents of school age (4-18 years), about 600,000 have been left without education for lack of schools, added to the high dropout rate due to the internal war situation that will be marking its tenth year.

It adds: "Many of the schools located in troubled zones have had to be closed, or have been destroyed. On the other hand, there is a large volume of displaced population, including 200,000 children of school age, 40 percent of whom have not attended school."

The lack of housing is oppressive for Salvadorans. The housing shortage has not declined, and so 63 percent of the population lives in tenements or shacks, and the annual production of formal housing amounts to 16,990 units, although the demand is for 27,000 (a shortage of 10,000 housing units).

It adds: "Other problems to be cited in this regard are the prohibitive prices that have been reached for housing for the majority of the population, whose income is not even sufficient to pay for adequate food, forcing large contingents to be located in urban settlements."

This gloomy picture shows that the serious situation is growing increasingly worse and, as the Inve stresses, "is and will continue to be critical for the majority of the population," so long as the current state of affairs continues, particularly the armed conflict, which is absorbing funds that could be allocated for improvements.

Another analysis made by the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University [UCA] emphasizes the difficult situation besetting the population in the rural areas, where, according to ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America], people are living in "extreme poverty," in other words, "it is a miracle that they survive."

To have only enough to "fool" their hunger, wear shabby clothing, and buy the minimal cooking utensils, among other things, the farming family requires an average of 3,000 colones per year, overlooking the right that they have to education, health, and housing.

According to UCA, "survival is a genuine miracle for the farmers. The war is making it even more difficult, and it is not surprising that nearly three-quarters of a million Salvadorans have left the country in order to be able to live. Under these circumstances, the proposal to reduce agricultural wages can be nothing other than objectively cynical."

Guatemala

Cerezo Wants More Drug Money Aid From U.S.

PA2308200189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1820 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today said that Guatemala "gains nothing" from its struggle against international drug trafficking, adding that control of this illegal business "only benefits the United States."

Cerezo, who regretted the U.S. Government's lack of help in fighting drug trafficking, explained that Guatemala spends money on things that only benefit the United States, "the country to which the drugs are being sent."

James Michel, U.S. ambassador to Guatemala, said recently that his government gives Guatemala $1 million a year to fight drug trafficking.

According to President Cerezo, Guatemala "should get something for its effort to fight drug trafficking in Guatemala." Cerezo added that in 6 months, Guatemala seized drugs worth $1 billion, an amount that represents a third of Guatemala's foreign debt.

The Christian Democratic president then asked himself: "What has Guatemala received in exchange?"

Meanwhile, the Treasury Police today reported that it had seized 5,000 marijuana plants worth more than $300,000 in the eastern El Progreso Department.

The sources said that no Guatemalan was arrested for this crime and added that the grass was burned at the site where it was found.

In the past week the Treasury Police launched a big operation aimed at locating and destroying marijuana and poppy plants that are being grown in Guatemala from where they are later sent abroad, mainly to Mexico and the United States.

Threats Prompt Magazine To Cease Publication

PA2208223289 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Aug 89 p 116

[Text] The staff reporters of the new magazine POR QUE resigned their posts this weekend after receiving death threats. The former reporters said this situation could mean the magazine may close this week.

The reporter indicated that the anonymous threats began on 18 August when they were ordered to leave the country in 72 hours. These newsmen were forced to resign their jobs, but other reporters, who also received threatening telephone calls, did not.

The former reporters stated that this is yet another attack on freedom of information and thought since 1 August,

when Christian Democrat ideologue Danilo Barillas, who wrote columns for the magazine, was murdered.

A few days after Barrilla's murder, Rolando Pineda Lam, POR QUE magazine publisher and secretary general of the Committee for the Creation of the Popular Alliance Party-5, founded by Danilo Barillas under the name FCD-5 [Civic Democratic Front], had to go into exile.

We have learned that the magazine POR QUE belongs to the Talento Empresarial company, is edited by Asociacion Libro Exito, Inc, and appears every Tuesday.

The editorial house decided to suspend publication because of the death threats. So, it is very likely that this news medium will die a few months after it began.

Acts of intimidation against the production and administrative staff of the aforementioned magazine occur almost simultaneously with charges by the Guatemalan Chamber of Journalism that the country's independent press is being harassed.

Banker Slain, Couple Kidnapped in Guatemala City

PA2408205089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1950 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Aug (DPA)—Well-known banker Ramiro Castillo Love was murdered today by a group of unidentified persons who riddled him with machinegun fire as he was leaving his residence in an elegant suburb in the southern part of this city.

According to the police, approximately six unidentified persons bearing arms went to his residence this morning with the intention of robbing or kidnapping Castillo. Castillo resisted, however, and was shot to death. The attackers also wounded Castillo's son.

After murdering Castillo the attackers jumped into one of Castillo's vehicles and fled.

Castillo was the president of the Banco Industrial, the largest private bank in Guatemala.

It was also reported today that unidentified persons kidnapped a young couple, Silvia Azurdia and Victor Rodriguez, as they were leaving their home in Guatemala City. Both Azurdia and Rodriguez are university students.

Azurdia is the daughter of Freddy Azurdia, the director of a local radio news program called "Comando Informativo."

Honduras

Minister Says U.S. 'Had Loosened Its Grip'

PA2408220789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2253 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Interior Minister Enrique Ortez Colindres stated today that the United States "had loosened its grip" on the Central American region but had not actually lost ground in the area.

The official noted that the success or failure of peace in the region now depended on the five regional presidents. He added that the Bush administration would have made a "mistake" if it had not allowed the isthmian presidents to have freedom of action at the fifth presidential summit held in Honduras from 5 to 7 August.

Ortez asserted that the U. S. change of attitude toward Central America is evidenced by the fact that it presently does not have an ambassador in Honduras.

Without mentioning names of countries or presidents, Ortez said that some persons act "like servants" of the United States and cannot take any action without consulting Washington first.

Commenting on the 13,000 Nicaraguan "contras" that are in eastern Honduras, Ortez noted that this force will split into three groups: "The group that will return to Nicaragua when the required guarantees exist, the group that will have their desks in Miami, and the true fighters that will spread out in the region."

At the summit held in Tela, Honduras, the Central American presidents agreed to demobilize the "contras," that have been in Honduras since 1981, before 8 December 1989.

The Honduran interior minister believes that the anti-Sandinists' fight "is over" and that the rebels were not successful in their struggle against the Nicaraguan Government although they received military and economic aid from the United States during all these years.

Ortez noted that the Tela agreements include coercive measures to force the "contras" to leave Honduras if they should resist demobilization.

Nicaragua

Wheelock on WASHINGTON TIMES Report

PA2408165089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, the chief of military intelligence of the Sandinist People's Army, has categorically denied a report regarding alleged contacts with Colombian drug traffickers that was published by the ultrarightist U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON TIMES. Wheelock said that the report is part of a U.S. Government campaign to link Nicaragua to the drug trafficking scandal.

[Begin Wheelock recording] The WASHINGTON TIMES has links to the Moon sect, and even closer links to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Reports of this type are usually leaked or turned over to the press by the U.S. intelligence community.

Primarily, they would like to revive the story of a presumed link between the Republic of Nicaragua and these drug trafficking criminals. To do so they have used this newspaper, but the report is absolutely untrue; I have not met with these persons. In the first place, I have never had any contact of any kind with drug traffickers or criminals. In the second place, I was in Managua on Sunday, the day the meeting allegedly was held. And in the third place, Nicaragua has embassies in all Latin American countries and Nicaragua upholds the right to asylum that the Latin American and American conventions grant to all those who are being persecuted for political reasons.

Nicaragua does not have to negotiate a stay in Nicaragua with any criminal, because here we do not allow criminals of any type. [End recording]

The ranking Nicaraguan official stressed that this report, which has been leaked by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, is part of a campaign to psychologically prepare the public for more severe strikes against Nicaragua or another country, particularly Panama, which is experiencing a serious crisis.

[Begin Wheelock recording] I would like to stress that it is perverse and wicked to try to link the Republic of Nicaragua with these criminals of the Medellin Cartel. Once again a U.S. lie has been exposed; it is trying to utilize the lie against the revolution at a time when the revolution has regained a first-place standing in the eyes of the world thanks to its flexibility and the success it has obtained in the negotiations at Tela and Guatemala and in all the countries and places at which the revolution is represented.

The important thing to note about this report is that it is undoubtedly psychological conditioning, to prepare the people for the more severe strikes the United States is undoubtedly preparing at some location on the American continent. I am referring to Panama. This method is used by the intelligence services of the world's powers, in general, and by the United States, in particular. This is psychological preparation for an operation that might be a surgical strike, a kidnapping, or an invasion. [end recording]

Ortega Releases 179 Prisoners in Nueva Guinea

PA2508001089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2250 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Report by Elizabeth Romero]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega today released from prison a total of 179 peasants involved in contra activities in the Nueva Guinea and El Almendro areas and delivered them to their relatives in Nueva Guinea.

Among those released are peasants Jose Eliosoldo Aguilar Velasquez, Ismael Arroyo Gutierrez, Margarita Castellanos Sandoval, Cristobal Duarte, and Roberto Espinoza Mendoza.

Those released today bring to 239 the number of prisoners released by President Ortega over the past few days.

After declaring the peasants free, President Ortega urged them to stop shooting and planting mines and instead to produce beans and corn in that area. He also invited those who have not yet put down their weapons to replace their rifles with plows and to accept the opportunity offered by the revolution.

Defense Ministry Reports Recent Contra Ambushes

PA2508031589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2228 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate on 24 August 1989]

[Text] On 21 August, a military unit of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] was attacked by a contra group southeast of Moan, in Chontales Department. One mercenary was killed in this action.

On 22 August, an EPS patrol was attacked in Quebrada El Arenal, southeast of Talolinga, in the autonomous South Atlantic Region. This action resulted in two mercenaries being killed, including a contra chief known as White Boot.

That same day, an EPS patrol was ambushed in Las Nubes sector, west of Bocana de Paiwas, in Matagalpa Department. One comrade was wounded during that action.

Managua, 24 August 1989
Public and Foreign Relations Directorate, Defense Ministry

Panama

Coverage of Reaction to OAS Dialogue, Statement

U.S.-Panamanian Confontation

PA2408204089 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The OAS approved early this morning, during a session that became a harsh verbal confrontation between the United States and Panama, a declaration urging that the search for a solution to the Panamanian crisis be continued. Following negotiations which lasted all day 23 August, the OAS foreign ministers met shortly after midnight in a session that concluded after 0300.

U.S. representative Lawrence Eagleburger said during the debate that the only alternative for solving the Panamanian crisis is the resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, whom he accused of turning Panama into a shelter for drug traffickers and a center for laundering drug money and shipping cocaine. Eagleburger also warned that if the terms for the OAS' mandate, stated in a previous resolution, to attain a

transfer of power in Panama are not fulfilled by 1 September, civilized nations will have to declare the Noriega regime illegal.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter left the room when Eagleburger began to talk, and he was replaced by Jose Maria Cabrera, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations. Cabrera answered Eagleburger's statement with a lengthy speech—which lasted more than 1 hour—in which he accused the United States of ruining and destabilizing Panama and of trying to bring Panama to its knees. Eagleburger left the room at that moment. Ambassador Cabrera pointed his finger at Bernard Aronson, the assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, who took Eaglerburger's place, and demanded proof of the United States' accusations. Jose Maria Cabrera said: The United States must present proof of its drug trafficking accusations against Noriega at this forum. Cabrera added that the accusations against Noriega were invented by the U.S. media.

The OAS resolution approved unanimously early this morning states deep concern because Panama's crisis has not been solved and urges the parties to urgently renew efforts for achieving a national agreement before 1 September. The resolution reasserts it is necessary that the solution to the Panamanian crisis ensures respect for democratic principles and the free exercise of the Panamanian people's sovereignty and self-determination. The OAS declaration also asks the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to make another visit to Panama, with the consent of the Panamanian Government, to update the human right situation in Panama.

The OAS foreign ministers' special plenum heard the report from the mission which traveled to Panama—comprised of Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Palencia, and Trinidad-Tobago Foreign Minister Sahadeo Basdeo, plus OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares— before the OAS issued a resolution on Panama's situation. The group said that after the parties presented specific proposals it was not possible to discuss the possibilities that undoubtedly existed to find formulas for a settlement and viable alternatives to the Panamanian crisis.

Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt gave a speech during the OAS special assembly, which discussed the Panamanian crisis until early this morning. He angrily reported on the U.S. military activities in Panama and gave details of the crisis in our country.

Following is the text of the declaration issued by the chairman of the foreign ministers' 21st consultative meeting and approved during the sixth plenary session held 23 August 1989:

1. Express thanks to the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as to the OAS secretary general, for the patient and efficient work carried out within the mandate given to the mission by the foreign ministers' 21st consultative meeting.

2. Express deep concern because the participants in the political dialogue in Panama have not yet achieved a solution to the crisis in their country, a solution which is exclusively Panamanian; and decidedly urge them to make new and urgent efforts to achieve a national agreement, according to the 17 May Resolution No 1 and the chairman's 20 July declaration concerning 1 September. If all the parties involved request it, they may count on the mission's assistance.

3. Reaffirm the need for ensuring the enforcement of democratic principles, and the free exercise of the Panamanian people's soverignty and self-determination to settle the Panamanian crisis.

4. Request that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission carry out, with the authorization of the Panamanian Government and in the shortest time possible, a new visit to Panama to update the information on the human rights situation in the country.

5. The consultative meeting remains open.

OAS 'Slap' to U.S. Hailed

PA2408224389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2126 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Aug (DPA)—Panamanian Chief Executive Manuel Solis Palma has said that President George Bush "exerted direct pressure through telephone calls to several Latin American presidents in an effort to get the OAS to condemn Panama at the last meeting of foreign ministers in Washington where the Panamanian crisis was discussed.

"I think that meeting gave the Latin American countries the opportunity to show some degree of independence by declaring that Panama has the right to solve its internal problems without interference. On this occasion, the OAS has been an instrument of defense rather than a tool of submission" by the United States, Solis Palma added.

Now there is a new OAS; let us hope it stays the way it is, Solis Palma added. He added that the organization serves as a means of protection for the weaker peoples on the continent vis-a-vis the powerful Americans who have strayed from the course of history.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Panamanian Armed Forces said that the OAS foreign ministers' refusal to approve a condemnation of Panama as Washington expected is "a great slap in the face to the United States in its attempt to control the destiny of Latin American countries."

"The OAS declaration is a great victory for Latin America, despite the fact that a couple of foreign ministers did the U.S. Government's bidding," the military spokesman added.

For his part, former progovernment presidential candidate Carlos Duque said that the OAS position with

regard to the Panamanian crisis "is a condemnation of the United States for its insolence toward Panama."

Duque said the Panamanian Government may invite the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission to visit Panama to observe "the human rights violations being committed by the U.S. troops in Panama."

FDP Spokesman Comments

PA2408193989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1828 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Rio Hato, Panama, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Major Edgardo Perez Grimaldo, spokesman for the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], today said the statement that the OAS approved early today "represents a success and a victory for Panama" and is "humiliating for the United States."

The spokesman added that he does not now dismiss "a suicidal and desperate action" by the U.S. Army, "which could be an armed or terrorist action. They want to provoke an incident."

In addition, Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, said the OAS statement reveals "consideration and respect for the peoples' self-determination" because "it lets us Panamanians settle our own domestic problems."

FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who joined Solis in inaugurating an agricultural fair at the Rio Hato military base today, did not comment on the OAS statement and only smiled broadly when the reporters reiterated their questions on the matter.

Lopez Grimaldo, who accompanied Noriega, said the members of the OAS mediating delegation who attended a dialogue between the government and the opposition in the past few weeks "had arrived with views influenced by disinformation, but they saw the true facts once they arrived in Panama." [passage omitted]

Duque, Solis Palma on Meeting

PA2508012989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2350 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Statements by Carlos Duque, former National Liberation Coalition presidential candidate, and by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, in Panama City on 24 August—recorded]

[Text] [Duque] One cannot condemn a country that is practically being attacked by another country. Panama is the one that benefited the most from the OAS mission's visits to our country. Thanks to those visits, the world is becoming aware of our truth.

In the statement issued by the OAS president on 23 August he requested sending a Human Rights Commission delegation to Panama. I believe the Human Rights Commission should be invited to come to Panama by the Panamanian Government so that they can verify who is violating human rights here in Panama.

I am sure that if a Human Rights Commission delegation comes to Panama with a positive and objective attitude, it would conclude that the United States must be condemned for violating human rights in Panama.

[Solis] The OAS meeting opens a path toward authentic respect for people's liberation and right to self-determination. The OAS did not leave the Panamanian problem at mere words. It proved it is possible. [sentence as heard] We still have progress to make.

Colonel Wong Heads Commission

PA2408220489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Aug 89 p A-4

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Colonel Guillermo Wong is heading a select commission that traveled to Venezuela to discuss Panama's current problems with the Carlos Andres Perez administration. It is not known if the commission is going to visit other South American nations for the same purpose, in view of the fact that the disinformation campaign against Panama has been intensified throughout the continent.

ADOC Makes Statement

PA2408215189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Aug 89 p A-5

[Statement by the members of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) presidential ticket on the results of the visit by the OAS delegation and the tripartite dialogue, in Panama City on 21 August]

[Text] The ADOC presidential ticket members have participated in good faith in the tripartite dialogue that was attended by a delegation of the OAS foreign ministers. In accordance with the 17 May resolution and the statements of the 21st consultative meeting, the purpose of this dialogue is to achieve a national consensus to effect the democratic transfer of power on 1 September while fully respecting the sovereign will of the Panamanian people.

Since its beginning more than 1 month ago, the dialogue has been held with the foreign ministers delegation in attendance, and the Panamanian people are deeply grateful for this. The ADOC ticket showed great flexibility so the dialogue could be initiated more easily. In fact, our original stance was that the dialogue should be held between the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], which control public power at present, and ADOC.

During the dialogue we found the stances of the regime and the opposition to be irreconcilable. The regime has insisted that the 7 May elections are null and void, that a junta of the government outside the Constitution will be established on 1 September, that General Manuel

Antonio Noriega must keep his post as FDP commander, and that the nation's and the people's sovereignties should be treated as separate issues. ADOC, on the contrary, has insisted that the people's will as expressed on 7 May should be respected, that the new constitutional authorities should be sworn in on 1 September, that Gen Noriega should retire as soon as practicable, that human rights should be respected, and that the national and the people's sovereignty cannot be dealt with separately.

Because of this, the ADOC ticket proposed a plebiscite out of loyalty to the Panamanian people, accepting the OAS consultation meeting's suggestion. The idea of a plebiscite was the only feasible, democratic, and fully Panamanian proposal presented to settle the irreconcilable disagreements and make possible the transfer of power in full respect of the Panamanian people's will.

The same obstacle that prevented a reconciliation between the stances of the two sides precluded the acceptance of the plebiscite as a democratic means to settle disagreements. This obstacle has been and continues to be Gen Noriega staying in power. We must point out that the Panamanian Episcopal Conference shares this view because it has asked Gen Noriega to step down as a preliminary step in solving the current Panamanian crisis. In addition, our assessment of the situation coincides with the 19 July report of the OAS delegation, which states: "Both the government and the opposition think Gen Noriega's staying as FDP commander is one of the issues, if not the issue, to be settled to solve the crisis, generally, and the legal and political situation derived from the annulment of the 7 May elections, specifically."

At no time during the dialogue—not even in the last 3 days when a new procedure was implemented with the assistance of the OAS delegation—have the other sides accepted formulas to determine what to do about Gen Noriega as FDP commander. More than any other, this fact has precluded a successful conclusion of the dialogue.

We hereby reassert that it is the Panamanian people who are demanding that Gen Noriega step down. The regime annulled the 7 May elections precisely because the people expressed its will on this by an overwhelming majority. In addition, the regime has not accepted the proposal for a plebiscite because it is afraid the people will reiterate this desire. No solution will be found for the serious crisis we are suffering through as long as the Panamanian people's sovereignty and will are not respected. Although the OAS delegation no longer participates in the tripartite dialogue, we are still willing to listen to any proposals by the other sides which could lead to a solution of the crisis. In conclusion, we restate our loyalty to the peaceful struggle of our people for liberty, justice, and democracy. Panama City, 21 August 1989. [Signed] President-Elect Guillermo Endara Galimani, First Vice President-Elect Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Second Vice President-Elect Guillermo Ford.

Opposition Criticizes OAS

PA2408200089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1708 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian opposition today criticized the OAS for not issuing an "explicit and decisive" statement on removing General Manuel Antonio Noriega as military chief, which in their opinion "is essential" to resolving the country's "grave crisis."

In a brief communique issued this morning, the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) regrets that the countries "would place various considerations above the principles of defense of human rights and democracy in Panama."

By early this morning, the OAS foreign ministers in Washington had not reached a consensus over the Panamanian crisis and ended their meeting by issuing a brief declaration by Assembly President Julio Londono, of Colombia, in which the ministers expressed "deep concern" over the situation.

The declaration leaves open the possibility of a foreign ministers "consultative meeting," but did not renew the mandate of the mediating commission by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, who ended his work without reaching an agreement between the Panamanian Government and the opposition.

The opposition reaffirms their "unyielding resolve of continuing until they win, together with the Panamanian people, their struggle for liberty, justice, and democracy."

"Our heartfelt thanks go toward all of those who offer their untiring efforts and solidarity because they really believe in human rights, in the peoples' self-determination, and in representative democracy," the ADOC document says.

"We regret that others place various considerations above these principles," and that, because of this, according to the communique, the OAS did not adopt "an explicit and decisive position considering the indisputable fact that was expressed in the 7 May elections and the entire negotiating process—a fact which termed essential the withdrawal of Gen Noriega."

In conclusion, ADOC announced it hopes "that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will again visit Panama as soon as possible, because human rights violations in Panama are becoming more dramatic every day."

So far the Panamanian Government has made no official comment on this morning's OAS declaration.

The OAS ministers' consultative meeting was called following the annulment of the Panamanian elections on 7 May, which the opposition claimed it had won. (According to most foreign observers who were at the

polls, the ADOC won by a wide margin against the candidates backed by the government and Gen Noriega).

'Real Problem' Not Revealed

PA2508014689 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2323 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Interview with Civic Crusade Leader Carlos Abadia by unidentified reporter in Panama City on 24 August—recorded]

[Text] [Abadia] We are surprised that the OAS member states have not discussed the Panamanian problem and have given it a different approach, which detracts from our real problem. The problem in Panama is that we Panamanians are trying to achieve democracy. When the Panamanian people's sovereignty is respected, we will be able to talk about national sovereingty. I think that the Latin American countries and the OAS member states really have a different view of the Panamanian situation.

We Panamanians, without any set dates, will continue struggling for democracy, liberty, and justice in Panama until we achieve those goals. Our struggle will always be peaceful, as we announced on 9 June 1987.

The political crisis will continue to worsen, as well as the economic crisis as long as the solutions the Panamanian people have been demanding are not met.

[Reporter] What are the possibilities of continuing the talks without the OAS presence?

[Abadia] We do not think that talks can continue—with or without the OAS—unless the real Panamanian problem is focused on beforehand in order to find a solution.

Leaders Endara, Ford on Meeting

PA2508010389 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2326 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Statements by Guillermo Endara, former Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) presidential candidate, and Guillermo Ford, former ADOC vice-presidential candidate, in Panama City on 24 August—recorded]

[Text] [Endara] We want to reiterate that we will continue our struggle along with the Panamananian people. We will continue struggling tenaciously for justice, freedom, and democracy.

We thank those Latin American peoples and governments that have shown concern for our democracy, for the Panamanian people's right to self-determination, and for the various problems the Panamanian people are experiencing.

[Ford] We must say that we regret the fact that the OAS did not speak clearly about the just ADOC proposal for resolving the basic disagreements between the positions of the Panamanian Government and the opposition. The ADOC proposal, which as far as we are concerned is still the best way to solve our disagreements, is the plebiscite. Through a plebiscite, the Panamanian people would exercise their sovereign will and would choose what they want. A plebiscite would not allow those who currently hold public power to impose their will on the Panamanian people. The ADOC proposal was avoided by the OAS in its report in a way I would rather not describe right now.

We have thanked the OAS for its efforts. We remain grateful for those efforts, but we must stress that the Panamanian people must know their future depends on their own desire to find democracy, freedom, and justice through peaceful means.

We must stress that regardless of how many resolutions are issued about the Panamanian crisis, what matters is that we continue to insist on solving the Panamanian crisis through democratic and Panamanian mechanisms and with absolute respect for the Panamanian people's sovereign will in order to avoid a confrontation between Panamanians, grief, and pain, which we have avoided thus far.

ADOC Given Invitation

PA2508045589 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2327 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Statement by Labor Party Secretary General Ramon Siero on 24 August in Panama City—recorded]

[Text] The OAS Resolution keeps the doors open, as those who participated in the dialogue felt, so we can, among Panamanians, continue seeking a solution to this strictly political program. Most of all I would like to appeal to the conscience of our distinguished ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] adversaries. Time is running out. On 23 August, we said during a news conference that we had not closed the doors on the dialogue. That is confirmed once again through the OAS. Appealing on the ADOC's spirit of patriotism and selflessness, we want to invite them to sit down once again, but with greater political commitment than before, greater willingness to accept than to reject, and real willingnesss to reach a conclusion. That is what the majority of people want. We cannot go on living in this uncertainty, which is how our followers feel. It is right for us to tell the country well in advanced what sort of provisional government will rule us as of 1 September.

Endara Requests Noriega Ouster

PA2508004389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2345 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 August (DPA)—Panamanian opposition leader Guillermo Endara said today that he would be willing to accept a member of the present administration as head of the Panamanian Government on 1 September if General Manuel Antonio Noriega is withdrawn from the Armed Forces.

Endara was the opposition's presidential candidate in the annulled 7 May elections, which the opposition claims to have won. He has stated that he is "not looking for power for the sake of power; so, if Gen Noriega resigns, we can perfectly well reach an agreement about the person who is to govern Panama." Endara added: It could even be a member of the present government.

The opposition leader criticized the OAS stance regarding the Panama crisis, saying: "The OAS and the Panamananian regime spout words in support of democracy and other high-minded ideals, but they do not talk about practical matters for discussion such as the plebiscite proposed by the opposition."

Endara added that he "had noted and asked himself why the OAS ministers feared Gen Noriega. The OAS ministers had said Noriega was the cause of the country's problems in their first Panama resolution, but they have not mentioned him again and have dropped this point of view."

He said that confronted with the present situation, the Panamanian opposition is going to struggle constantly and increasingly to attain democracy, justice, and freedom in Panama. Endara stated that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission must visit Panama to note the deterioration of human rights in the country.

Endara also said that it is not true that the Panamanian opposition plans to take over public offices on 1 September, when the present administration's term is scheduled to end.

Duque: 'New Type of Government' 1 Sep

PA2508015889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0021 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 August (DPA)—Former COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] candidate Carlos Duque Jaen stated today that "Panama is going to enter a different process, similar to a new Republic and with a new type of government" on 1 September.

Duque, who is also the president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), and said that the new government that takes over public administration on 1 September, must stop the practice of giving quotas of political power to the parties that support it because this practice hinders good government administration.

The government official also reported that there are several proposals to substitute the legislative and executive branches. Some of these proposals are a government junta, a military junta, and a minister in charge of the Presidency.

Currently the PRD, the government's majority party, controls 7 of the 12 existing ministries.

Solis Palma Denies Country Harbors Traffickers

PA2408173589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Aug 89 pp 1, B-4

["Note" from Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas, dated 23 August]

[Text] Panama City, 23 August 1989

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the Panamanian Government and people, we would like to forcefully reject false and slanted international news agency reports which are maliciously aimed at making the people of the world believe that members of the international drug trafficking mafia, of Colombian origin, are in hiding in our territory.

I would like to inform you that our government supports and will continue to cooperate with the struggle against international drug trafficking. As proof of this our laws have been modified to make the penalties for drug trafficking more severe; those involved are no longer eligible for bail; and Panama has become a signatory to the 20 December 1988 Vienna Convention on the subject.

We reiterate our sorrow over the recent violent incidents in your country, which third parties have been utilizing to continue attacking us from all fronts.

Rest assured that we will cooperate closely with your country's authorities to keep these criminals from using our territory to get out of the reach of the law.

Very truly yours,
Manuel Solis Palma
Minister in Charge of the Presidency of the Republic of Panama.

National Bank, U.S. Reach Agreement on Charges

PA2508033089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Aug 89 p A-7

[Paid advertisement by the Banco de Occidente (Panama), Inc.]

[Text] The Banco de Occidente (Panama), Inc. states:

On 28 March 1989 the U.S. authorities launched a large-scale press campaign accusing the Banco de Occidente (Panama), Inc., among others, of belonging to a network of persons and institutions that had carried out drug-related transactions in the United States. Two of our bank's officials were initially accused of permitting and of receiving transfers of funds from the United States even though they were aware that the money was the result of drug operations. By extension, this made the bank criminally liable for the crime.

As a result of the accusation an order was issued to impound the funds that the Banco de Occidente (Panama), Inc. had in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, and Canada. Consequently $70 million of the bank's funds were seized.

Given the state of things and the financial situation the bank found itself in as a result of the measures, we asked the National Banking Commission of Panama to authorize the partial or provisional suspension of our operations until we had recovered enough liquidity to attend to our clients' needs. In reply to our request, the commission appointed an administrator and authorized the provisional suspension of our operations.

Meanwhile, the bank—through its lawyers—was able to prove the following to the U.S. authorities:

1. The Banco de Occidente has a history of good managerial and operational expertise and it is owned by individuals and corporations in Colombia, Panama, and Montserrat, who, through traditional and legal operations, created a financial organization that is known to be morally and economically sound in domestic and international circles. This is evidenced by the many and varied financial and commercial transactions carried out by the bank.

2. The fact that the bank had no intention to and in reality did not back the operations is an issue for contention. In fact, the bank was incriminated by extension in this case, because the authorities are holding the bank responsible for crimes that have been attributed to two of its officials.

Under U.S. law, corporations are responsible for the actions of their employees even if they, not only do not support, but in fact have no knowledge of the activities in question. This extension of responsibility to the bank is based on a legal technicality in U.S. law, despite the fact that the U.S. authorities admit that the bank had no knowledge of and did not intentionally support the illegal operations.

Based on the above, the bank managed to get the U.S. authorities' cooperation in releasing the $50 million that had been sequestered in Germany, Switzerland, and Canada. This action allowed the bank to return to normal operations. The new situation allowed the National Banking Commission to issue Resolution No 28/89 of 21 July 1989, which recalled the government appointed administrator and returned the reins of management to the bank.

The bank's board of directors immediately proceeded to designate well-known banker Hernan Valencia Orjuela as the bank's general manager. Mr Valencia was given precise instructions to restructure the system of controlling and keeping track of the accounts. These new procedures were implemented because international banks currently run the risk of becoming involuntarily involved in a criminal investigation over any transfer of funds, even if the money is coming from other international banks with a sound reputation.

Finally, and as we have informed the National Banking Commission, the institution reached an agreement with the U.S. authorities to clear up its uncomfortable legal situation in the United States. Our efforts are based on the fact that the bank is a serious, responsible, and honest institution that was used without its knowledge and became criminally liable because, according to U.S. laws and regulations, a firm is responsible—by extension—for the actions of its employees.

The bank and U.S. officials reached an agreement that was presented to the Atlanta District Court in Georgia, United States of America, on 14 August 1989. So as to avoid further financial losses because of delays in reaching a legal resolution of the controversy the bank accepted its "corporate responsibility." This procedure is not known in our legal system but it is possible in the United States of America. The procedure is feasible and was chosen because the bank is innocent of any intentional participation in criminal acts, and because its responsibility is only attributed by extension and as a consequence of criminal acts by third parties: employees of the bank.

As part of the agreement, the bank agreed to pay $5 million over a period of 4 years. In exchange charges will be lifted and the bank will be allowed to operate in the United States of America without any restrictions. The bank will also immediately recover the $22.5 million in funds that had remained frozen.

To sum things up, the bank as an institution was involuntarily involved in activities that the U.S. Government has declared illegal. Although these charges have not been proven, the bank has accepted this agreement in order to end this troublesome affair at a point when the financial conditions were still bearable, basically to benefit its customers and to safeguard their deposits.

To close, we would like to publicly state our gratitude to Panamanian officials, to the Panama Banking Association, to our colleagues at the Panama International Financial Center, to our correspondents, and especially to our institution's biggest asset—its customers—for the trust, support, and cooperation provided during this period and until the firm resumed its normal operations.
Very truly yours,
FRANCISCO CASTRO ZAWADSKY General Manager BANCO DE OCCIDENTE (PANAMA),S.A.
HERNAN VALENCIA ORJUELA Chairman, Board of Directors BANCO DE OCCIDENTE (PANAMA), S.A.

Argentina

President Returns From 3-Day Visit to Brazil

PY2508031489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0249 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (NA)—Tonight President Carlos Menem returned home from a 3-day official visit to Brazil. During his stay in Brazil Menem confirmed his government's support for the process of integration with Brazil and signed new agreements.

The Argentine president arrived at Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport at 2325 after a long delay because the plane flying him home made a stopover in Iguazu and made a long detour to avoid a storm.

Vice President Duhalde handed the Presidency back to Menem at the VIP room of the Metropolitan Airport. [passage omitted]

Senator Eduardo Menem To Travel to UK for Talks

PY2408144089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (TELAM)—National Senator Eduardo Menem said he believes that communications between the Malvinas and the Argentine continental territory could be restored "in not too long a time." He also announced that he will travel to Great Britain next week to meet with members of parliament to discuss the Malvinas Islands issue.

Menem voiced his satisfaction over the progress made in talks with the UK. He noted that British acceptance of the "umbrella" position, by which "the subject of the islands' sovereignty is neither discussed nor ignored," represents "the first victory of Argentine diplomacy" regarding this subject.

The legislator for La Rioja Province said during a conversation with Radio Rivadavia that he will travel to Great Britan next week to participate in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU). He added that the meeting "has a special and vital importance for Argentina due to its nature, but also because of where it is taking place and because of the current state of talks with the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands."

Menem added that "it is quite likely that, in addition to the IPU meetings, we will meet with UK members of parliament, from whom we have already received an invitation to discuss the islands."

The legislator said that "the fact that they have decided to place the subject of the sovereignty under an umbrella—which means that the subject is not discussed for the time being but neither is it ignored—represents a great step forward for us, because up to now the United Kingdom has not accepted the existence of a dispute in that regard."

Menem added that by accepting the umbrella theory—opportunely proposed by President Carlos Menem—Great Britain is "implicitly acknowledging the existence of the dispute, and this represents the first great victory of Argentine diplomacy in this regard."

When asked about the possibility of organizing a Menem-Thatcher summit, he said he did not believe it "feasible" in a short term, but he added that he believes the meeting "could take place if enough progress" is made in the direct talks that will start in October in Spain between diplomatic representatives of the two nations.

He added that the progress will also represent an advantage for Great Britain because it will "thus be able to stop worrying about the need to maintain a military base, carry out maneuvers, and remain armed in this part of the South Atlantic."

Menem ended by stating that "as soon as the talks start, the tension will ease and we will be able to live in a more tranquil atmosphere."

Duhalde, U.S. Envoy Discuss Trafficking

PY2408184189 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Vice President Eduardo Duhalde has confirmed that he met with U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman today. Duhalde said that there is no need to use the Armed Forces in the struggle against drug trafficking.

He added that Argentina and the United States will not carry out joint actions against drug trafficking. He said that traffickers do not respect borders and that all actions will be carried out through the OAS.

Regarding the visit of President Carlos Menem to the United States, Duhalde said that the Foreign Ministry is handling it and that the date for a meeting between Menem and George Bush in Washington has not yet been established.

Human Rights Groups To Demonstrate 8 Sep

PY2408183789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Human rights organizations have confirmed that they will demonstrate on 8 September against the amnesty and pardon of members of the Armed Forces.

They have invited all political parties and intermediate organizations to participate in the demonstration. Several political organizations have already promised to participate. Among them is the Radical Civic Union Youth Sector which, in a communique signed by its President Daniel Bravo, justified the group's position by saying that the Expiration Law and the unclear way the Easter military uprising was resolved are enough concessions to the military power and represent a step backward in the consolidation of the democratic system.

Bolivia

Minister Calls Trip To Washington 'Positive'

PY2508013289 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Planning Minister Enrique Garcia has said that the principle guiding the government's economic policy and the plans for development and growth within a framework of stability have satisfied Washington.

Upon returning from Washington, Garcia said his visit was positive because the international financial organizations have granted their support for the implementation of various projects.

Garcia said a schedule of activities similar to the one agreed on with the IMF was established. According to Garcia, this schedule will allow for the disbursement of resources beginning in October of this year. Garcia added that the work will be done both outside and inside the country because missions will arrive on a regular basis to control the implementation of the various projects and guarantee the fulfillment of the agreements.

Garcia said the economic situation of the country is still delicate but added that it will improve with time and with the gradual implementation of the government's economic policy.

Garcia added that our government is taking responsible actions to counteract the delay by Argentina to pay for gas purchases, by restricting its spending and carefully controlling resources to different programs according to the availability of funds.

Border Reinforced To Deter Colombian Traffickers

PY2508023689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2326 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] La Paz, 24 Aug (EFE)—Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico announced today that the Bolivian Government has ordered that border patrols be reinforced by antidrug organizations to prevent the entry into Bolivia of Colombian drug traffickers trying to escape from the Colombian antidrug offensive.

Torrico said: "There is no imminent danger that this could happen, but we are taking the necessary measures to prevent undesirables from entering our territory."

Torrico added that several gangs of drug traffickers are operating in Bolivia and that there is evidence linking some of these gangs with the Medellin Cartel. He made it clear, however, that "we do not have a specific report."

For his part, Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco described the measures adopted by the antidrug organizations as "part of the routine" the new government intends to follow.

"There is no emergency in the country as a result of the Colombian antidrug offensive," Capobianco said. He added, however, that the drug trade has always been a threat to the country.

Anibal Aguilar, chairman of the Inter-American Committee for the Control of Drugs and Drug Abuse (CICAD), a UN organization, has stated that an international drug trade structure also exists in Bolivia. He noted, however, that drug production in Bolivia is different from that of Peru and Colombia.

Aguilar said that the drug trade in Colombia and Peru is based on a large, powerful "capitalistic, mercantilistic" organization, while in Bolivia it is still "semicapitalistic and semimercantilistic," and it is based on family groups.

The CICAD chairman said: "Bolivia is vulnerable to penetration by international gangs of traffickers."

Meeting of Tin-Producing Countries Urged

PY2508025089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2321 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] La Paz, 24 Aug (EFE) According to Mining and Metallurgy Minister Walter Soriano, the Bolivian Government today decided to call for a meeting of tin-producing countries to analyze the problems in the sector which is the country's main source of income.

The decision was prompted by the fall in the international price of the mineral, a situation which could create difficulties for the productive sectors of tin-producing countries.

Soriano said Bolivia will call the meeting "to create a common front to seek mechanisms to solve the problem, which is a vital one for Bolivia."

The Bolivian Government will do its utmost to minimize the effects of the low price of tin in the international market "because the sudden price drop has placed our mining sector in a very difficult situation."

Soriano called on the international community to help shore up Bolivia's mineral and metallurgical sector, as a basic measure to preserve the jobs of a great number of mine workers and as a show of solidarity with the country.

Municipal Elections Scheduled for 3 Dec

PY2508140089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The state branches must comply with the nation's Constitution and the Municipal Organizational Law regarding the municipal elections scheduled for next December. The national representatives of the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] reminded the Chamber of Deputies of this fact at a regular session, in which a note of communication was approved. The note

states that the call to municipal elections on 3 December must be complied with in order to consolidate the democratic system.

Brazil

Relations With U.S. Reportedly Strained

PY2408151689 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Aug 89 p 25

[By Roberto Garcia]

[Text] Washington—Brazilian and U.S. sources reported yesterday that the scheduled meetings between Itamaraty Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima and U.S. officials will yield modest results, despite the hope for better relations between Brazil and the United States. Flecha de Lima yesterday arrived in Washington to participate in an OAS meeting to discuss the Panamanian situation, but on Thursday and Friday he will meet the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, as well as the White House representative for trade negotiations. Sources from those offices have reported that "Brazil needs to be more yielding so that we also can make a greater effort."

A sign of the lack of interest has been the delay in sending the new U.S. ambassador to Brazil. Although Brazil has already agreed to the designation of Richard Melton, the White House has not even officially announced the designation of that ambassador or submitted his name for approval by the U.S. Senate.

Both Brazilian and U.S. officials admit that "relations have been better in the past." However, market restrictions in several sectors of the economy, disagreements regarding pharmaceutical patents, and recurring financial and political frictions have cooled down relations between Brasilia and Washington over the past few years.

A Brazilian official has stated :"Realistically speaking, there are no chances to repair this damaged relationship during the Sarney administration. Our great objective is to prevent the emergence of new areas of disagreement until the presidential transition."

Moreover, George Bush, since his inauguration, has shown that Brazil is not among his priorities.

A White House national Security Council assistant has stated that "the very route of the President's trips show where he is concentrating his attention. He has not left the northern hemisphere."

For that reason, Flecha de Lima will try to consolidate the small achievements, such as the agreement on steel exports and that on the merchant marine, in addition to trying to remove barriers to the export of supercomputers.

Further on Saudi Decision To Buy Tanks

PY2408183889 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Aug 89 Economic Section p 1

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] The Saudi Arabian Government's decision to buy 318 EE-T1 Al Fahd/Osorio tanks manufactured by ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] for $2.2 billion (about 9.4 billion new cruzados) marks the beginning of a chain reaction that will shortly lead to the sale of 440 units to two other countries, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. In addition to the initial order, the Saudi Army has an option to purchase a second lot of 318 tanks in 1992. This means that the total deal could amount to $7.2 billion (about 30 billion new cruzados) in the next 3 years.

The Emirates' forces are organizing armored divisions that will be equipped with 220 heavy tanks each. The Al Fahd/Osorio has already been tested and technically approved. According to a high-ranking source of the Foreign Ministry's Department for the Promotion of Trade, however, in keeping with the standardization requirements contained in the regional mutual defense agreements, Emirian officials were waiting for the Riyadh decision before officially announcing their choice. The Kuwaiti High Command is simultaneously negotiating the separate supply of 100 or 150 EE9 Cascavel armored vehicles, equipped with 90-mm cannons, and EE-L1 Urutu armored vehicles for general use.

The news of the Saudi decision to choose the Brazilian tank in the international tender bidding was published by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO on 20 August and confirmed in Riyadh by the AL-WATAN newspaper. In yesterday's issue, AL-WATAN comments on the meeting held between Brazilian Ambassador Ney do Prado Dieguez, who was accompanied by ENGESA Chairman Jose Luiz Whitaker Ribeiro, and Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, who conveyed to the Brazilian visitors his government's final decision. In a report to Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre, Antonio do Amaral Sampaio, head of the Near East Department (DOP), who also attended the meeting with the prince, states that only a few minor details have to be discussed before the contract is finally signed.

The contract will be signed in Riyadh in no more than 10 weeks. Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves and Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre will sign it for the Brazilian Government. The committee to attend the ceremony will consist of General Decio Barbosa, head of the Army Materiel Department; Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, Itamaraty secretary general; Antonio do Amaral Sampaio, head of the DOP; and Rangel Castro, head of the Department for the Promotion of Trade.

The Osorio tank, which was renamed Al Fahd (the leopard) in its Saudi version, caused an explosion in Sao

Paulo—13,000 km from Saudi Arabia—that was not the result of a shell fired by its powerful 120-mm cannon: ENGESA stock went up some 48 percent (each lot being sold at about 200 new cruzados). ENGESA stock has increased by more than 95 percent in the Sao Paulo stock market since 17 August.

Before that, the Brazilian tank had already "killed" two rivals: the British assault vehicle Challenger-I, and the French AMX-40, which went out of production after being disqualified in the performance tests in the Sharuah desert and at the Khamya Mushayt firing range in 1987. The U.S. M1 Abrams tank, which placed second in the tender bidding, will be bought, together with the EE-T1. The Saudi Army will buy 250 of the U.S. tanks.

Continuing Coverage of Argentine President's Visit

Sarney, Menem Visit Institute

PY2508004589 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] President Jose Sarney and Carlos Menem today inspected a model of the CBA-123 airplane in Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo. This airplane, which represents one of the main technological cooperation agreements between Argentina and Brazil, will be built jointly by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and the Argentine Factory of Aerospace Materiel.

Sarney and Menem also visited the National Institute of Space Research in Sao Jose dos Campos which will implement the technological cooperation program.

The receiving the military honors and greeting the Sao Paulo authorities in the Congonhas airport of Sao Paulo, Presidents Sarney and Menem went to the Bandeirantes Palace, the Sao Paulo government house, where Governor Orestes Quercia hosted a luncheon for them and for Brazilian and Argentine businessmen.

Before the luncheon in the Bandeirantes Palace, the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Abreu Sodre, and of Argentina, Domingo Cavallo, attended to a meeting of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries to explain the Latin American integration program. Abreu Sodre made an evaluation of President Menem's visit to Brazil.

[Begin Sodre recording] We have signed more than 20 documents, contracts, and treaties, which will gradually be implemented. [end recording]

Sodre also explained why the Latin American integration program is being started by Brazil and Argentina.

[Begin Sodre recording] Because that is the nature of the agreements. The European Common Market began with Benelux and France, and it has taken (10) years for the last two countries, Portugal and Spain, to join.

The integration program begins with bilateral talks which will then become multilateral. [end recording]

Following the luncheon in Bandeirantes Palace, Sarney and Menem visited the Latin American Memorial in downtown Sao Paulo.

Menem Leaves for Buenos Aires

PY2408231789 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Integration is developing faster in Latin America than it is in Europe. President Jose Sarney said this today just before saying farewell to Argentine President Carlos Menem in Sao Paulo.

Latin American integration is a process that cannot be achieved in a few years, but we have made much more progress than the European Common Market which began 30 years ago and has still not been consolidated. These were the words of President Jose Sarney upon concluding his visit to Sao Paulo together with his Argentine counterpart Carlos Menem.

The two presidents today visited the EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] plant, the National Space Research Institute in Sao Jose dos Campos, and they attended to a rehearsal of the Sao Pualo symphony orchestra, conducted by Eliazar de Carvalho, in the Latin American Memorial in Sao Paulo.

President Menem said that his visit to Brazil will help to consolidate Latin American democracy and unity. Although Menem did not wish to speak about the foreign debt problem but only about development, he did say that if more resources were invested in producing wealth, the foreign debt problem would not be as important.

The two presidents said goodbye to each other at the Congonhas airport a little after 1800. Some 10 minutes later Menem departed for Buenos Aires, and President Sarney took off for Brasilia.

Central Bank Reports on Decreasing Foreign Debt

PY2408152689 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Aug 89, Economic Section p 24

[Text] According to a report released by the Central Bank entitled "Brazil—Economic Program," the Brazilian foreign debt decreased 2.3 percent in the first quarter of this year, falling to $110.3 billion by 31 March 1989. The report indicates that as of December 1988 the foreign debt was $112.88 billion.

The Central Bank report also says that the reduction was caused by the Brazilian pyments of interest, capital, and other commitments, in addition to the conversion of the debt into investments. The report also indicates that the increase in the value of the dollar in relation to other currencies contributed to a decrease of $1.6 billion in the foreign debt.

The Central Bank report says that Brazil will pay $14.9 billion to service the foreign debt this year, which is higher than the $14.4 billion paid last year. The payment

of interest in 1989 will be $10.3 billion, which is higher than the $9.8 billion paid last year. By December 1989 the debt should be $110.71 billion.

GNP Rate for April-June Highest of Decade

PY2508013089 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Report from Rio de Janeiro by Douglas Correia]

[Text] The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] has announced the highest Brazilian GNP rate of the decade. All GNP indicators of the 2d quarter of 1989 were positive. Comparing the 1st and 2d quarters of the year, the 6.5-percent GNP rate of the April-June period represents the highest GNP rate of the decade.

The IBGE quarterly study also reveals that the GNP reached its highest level this decade: 124.19 [not further specified] in comparison with 1980 as a base year. This good performance is a result of the Summer Plan which increased consumption and commerce.

Commerce activity which reached an average 1.1 percent in the 1st quarter increased to 9.27 percent in the 2d quarter. The manufacturing industries also increased in the second quarter by 11.4 percent, civil construction by 23.29 percent, and transportation by 10.06 percent.

Colombia

Barco Cancels Visit to Yugoslavia, Poland

PA2408201489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1900 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 24 Aug (DPA)—Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas has definitively cancelled his visit to Yugoslavia and Poland, which had been slated for early September, due to the wave of violence that has been battering the country and the government's current campaign against the drug trafficking mafias.

Barco Vargas' trip was scheduled to begin on 1 September. His first stop was to have been Yugoslavia, where he was to attend the summit of heads of state of the nonaligned countries in Belgrade, the nation's capital.

Several days later President Barco would have traveled to Poland, where he was to pay official visits to Warsaw and Krakow.

Government spokesmen confirmed, however, that in late September President Barco will travel to New York City to deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly meeting.

While there, Barco will meet with his U.S. counterpart George Bush to discuss drug trafficking, a leading topic in the most important media of the world today due to Colombia's offensive against the cocaine drug trafficking mafia.

It is believed that while at the United Nations President Barco will ask all the nations of the world to provide resolute support to the fight against drug trafficking. This is in keeping with Colombia's belief that the consumer countries should participate as actively as the producing countries in the fight against drug trafficking.

Up until now, the army and the police have arrested close to 11,000 persons throughout Colombia, among them five Extraditables. Several properties belonging to the drug "lords" have been seized and will pass into the hands of the state.

U.S. To Send Military Equipment, Not Troops

PA2508135689 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1225 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota—The U.S. Government has (?prepared) the list of military equipment that it will be able to send to Colombia to fight the drug traffickers. The list includes helicopters to carry personnel, medicine, and communication equipment. There are no plans to send troops.

It was revealed that U.S. and Colombian officials will meet in Washington to analyze the two nations' cooperation in that sector. The training of Colombian military troops and policemen has not been ruled out. In fact, pilots will be trained to fly the U.S.-made aircraft because the United States will not send its pilots.

The list of military equipment was sent by the Pentagon to the White House.

'Extraditables' Group Threatens To Kill Judges

PA2508144889 Paris AFP in Spanish 1422 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 25 Aug (AFP)—The sinister Extraditables group today threatened to kill 10 judges for every Colombian extradited to the United States. This is a warning to the government of President Virgilio Barco, who has announced that individuals linked to drug trafficking can be extradited.

The clandestine group, which early this morning set fire to the Llano Grande country club in Rionegro municipality, 40 km north of Medellin, sent a letter today to Omar Garces, first superior court judge of Cali, informing him of the threat to kill 10 judges for every person extradited.

Garces, who is also president of the association of judicial officials in Valle del Cauca Department, said that the Extraditables sent several similar messages to various judicial offices in that area of the country, located 500 km from Bogota.

Due to the Extraditables' threat, the judges are holding a meeting to weigh the situation and determine the veracity of the warning. However, they have decided they will not stop working.

"The time has come to unite around the country's flag to recover Colombia's dignity and to prevent its bad sons from continuing to shame it before the world," Judge Garces said. He also asked for protection for himself and the other judges in that area of the country.

Judge Reportedly Resigns

PA2408190389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1733 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Report by Carlos Arturo Paez and Jesus Garzon]

[Excerpt] Colombian judges attended to their activities today, but their resignation is still valid. Minister of Justice Monica de Greiff met with the judges' association representatives this morning and reiterated the government's determination to protect them and increase the branch's budget. Upon leaving the meeting, the representatives said that no important agreements had been reached.

[Begin recording] [Association President Antonio Suarez] The meeting will have to continue.

[Unidentified reporter] Exactly what was the minister's message?

[Suarez] She was there and reported on the government's willingness to protect us. Unfortunately, the problem of the judges' safety cannot be solved with willingness alone. [end recording]

The judges have announced they will meet to consider the alternatives offered by the government. The minister of justice has announced a news conference for this afternoon.

While all the other judges resumed their work, Judge Alvaro Medina Moreno, who is in charge of investigating the most complex criminal cases in the country, reportedly resigned today. He had said on 7 July that he would not resign, despite the death threats against him. [passage omitted]

New Decrees Issued Against Traffickers

PA2508012289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0003 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] A few minutes ago, the national government issued more state of siege decrees directed against drug trafficking. The decrees guarantee anonymity for judges who decide whether or not an extradition order is constitutional. The decrees also provide for a 5-day period for owners of property impounded by the government to present evidence that the property was obtained legally. These are the new measures.

The first decree states that when property has been seized, authorities who confiscated it must present an inventory within 72 hours. Within the following 5 days, the owners must appear in person to prove that the property was obtained by legal means. If they fail to appear, the National Narcotics Council will turn over the property to an institution such as the Family Welfare Institute or the Defense Ministry.

Another decree provides for special secrecy for the courts to decide whether the state of siege laws on extradition and expropriation are legal. This secrecy means that not even the names of judges studying the laws will be revealed.

The third decree gives public order judges jurisdiction in cases of illegal self-enrichment. Formerly, this crime applied only to government officials; it now extends to private citizens.

The fourth decree primarily obliges governors and intendants to report what airstrips in their respective territories have legal status. Unauthorized airstrips will be considered clandestine, and will, therefore, be seized or destroyed.

British, Israeli Mercenaries Hired by Traffickers

PA2408210689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1913 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 24 Aug (EFE)—The presence of British and Israeli mercenaries, paid by Colombian extreme right-wing groups and drug traffickers, was confirmed today by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), Colombia's secret police.

The DAS sent a confidential report to Colombian President Virgilio Barco, which was published today by the liberal newspaper EL TIEMPO. The report confirms that there is a collaberation between drug traffickers and extreme right-wing groups, and the presence of foreign mercenaries in Colombia—hired by the extreme right-wing drug-trafficking organizations.

The official organization asserts that the recently created extreme rightist Movement of National Restoration (MORENA) "must be identified as the culmination of a symbiosis between drug traffickers, self-defense groups, groups of hired gunmen trained by foreign mercenaries, and agrarian businessmen who are tired of the guerrilla groups' constant harassment."

The report indicates that British and Israeli mercenaries identified as John Owen, Dave Tomkins, R. Paxton, P. Glasgow, A. Dewer, and P. Atherton entered Colombia through Eldorado International Airport in July, but the information does not give their individual nationalities.

The DAS adds that Dean Shelley, Peter McAleese, Alex Lenox, and Andres Gibson entered the country previously and settled in the drug traffickers extreme right-wing groups' military training camps in Puerto Boyaca, middle Magdalena region (central part of the country), La Azulita (southern Putumayo), Puerto Lopez (Meta Department), and El Recreo (Caqueta Department) on the northeastern flatlands.

Radio stations' reports added that Colonel Yair Klein (R) has been identified among the Israeli mercenaries by the secret services of his country. Klein was commander of a paratroopers' unit in 1983 and apparently has a private security agency in Israel.

Abraham Tzadaka and Jacobo Brine were also identified by their fellow countrymen.

On a national newscast broadcast several weeks ago a video showed the Israeli mercenaries wearing blue uniforms during war maneuvers with the drug-traffickers far right-wing groups' private army. The scenes were reproduced by the NBC television network in the United States.

Previous reports from the DAS, revealed in Colombia, indicate that the Colombians trained by the mercenaries include persons linked with the self-defense groups in the middle Magdalena region and the recently created MORENA.

The first persons to notify the prosecutor general of the nation, the highest authority, about the presence of foreign mercenaries among the drug-traffickers far right-wing armed groups were deserters from the middle Magdalena self-defense groups—identified as Jesus Alberto Molina Urrea, Ricaurte Duque Arboleda, and Victor Arboleda Duque.

According to the deserters' declarations, the Israeli mercenaries cannot speak Spanish and they frequently met with Gonzalo de Jesus Perez, Henry Perez, and Marcelo Perez.

According to the DAS report revealed today, "The Perezes," are important members of the Association of Middle Magdalena Cattlemen (ACDEGAM), the self-defense groups, and MORENA; and the authorities charge them with the mass murders of peasants in Uraba, which located in the country's northwestern area.

New Security Measures for Candidates' Appearances

PA2508031489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0020 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] As a result of Colombian presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan's murder, presidential candidates' security in public appearances has become a major issue.

Following are the minimum security measures that presidential candidates must take into account to protect themselves and save their lives when endangered.

From now on supporters of any presidential candidate must understand that they will have to abide by the following security measures during their candidates' public appearances.

Measures for candidates:
1. All candidates will have to place themselves in the hands of their guardian angels, in other words, to their chief escort. The chief escort and the candidate will jointly plan each tour and will program all movements in detail and follow the program to the letter.

The candidate must inform the chief escort of his agenda and of any threat or indication of danger he receives. The candidate must use his escorts exclusively for his protection and for no other use.
2. A candidate's escorts must know the candidate's bloodtype, his illnesses, and which medicine he takes. The escorts must also know the names of the candidate's closest friends.
3. The candidate must learn what to do in an emergency situation. His escorts will teach him what to do.
4. No one should be surprised if the candidates change their plans at the last minute. The candidate must not fall into a routine. He must change routes, schedules, and programs always in consultation with his chief escort.
5. The candidate must always have a doctor in his group.
6. Each candidate will have to bear an extra burden. He will have to wear a heavy and suffocating bullet-proof vest. Supporters, please take that into account.
7. A public rally in an open place at night can be deadly for your candidate. Please exclude any such rallies from your plans.
8. Say no to the use of firecrackers and powder kegs during demonstrations. Such things confuse escorts and security corps.
9. Supporters, please understand that crowds who want to shake candidates' hands or touch them can be deadly. Escorts should not allow such things.
10. Candidates will have to limit their walks in public places and reduce their social activities to a the minimum. Candidates will visit their friends at unusual hours.

This is how security will be handled from now on. All these measures have turned candidates into men with limitations. Their supporters must understand their candidates' situation. Candidates are men under the dictatorship of their guardian angels who look after their safety in times of rage.

Authorities Arrest Drug Lord's Son in Pacho

PA2508133489 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota—Freddy Gonzalo Rodriguez Sendales, son of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, a.k.a. the Mexican, was arrested by police during the multiple raids and operations to capture drug traffickers. The arrest of Rodriguez Sendales took place in the town of Pacho, Cundinamarca, where the Army raided several farms owned by the well-known drug lord, according to information published today by the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR.

Freddy Rodriguez had been arrested on 1 May upon arrival at the airport in Medellin aboard a private airplane from Cartagena. The authorities found weapons that are exclusively used by the Armed Forces in the aircraft. He was released 4 weeks later.

* Presidential Campaign Maneuvering Studied

* Liberal Convention Held

33480243 Bogota SEMANA in Spanish
25 Jul 89 pp 22-29

[Text] After the latest episode in the Conservative schism, one thing appears increasingly clear: The next president of the Republic will be a Liberal. Therefore, when people talk about a popular primary election to choose the Liberal candidate, they are really talking about the mechanism for selecting the next leader of Colombia.

For this reason, the events of late last Saturday afternoon at the Bogota Convention Center were of great significance. "Everyone who is against the popular primary, stand up," said former President Julio Cesar Turbay, head of the Liberal Party, to more than 800 delegates. Amid the laughter, those who had stood up hastened to sit down. During the course of the convention it had become clear that those who had spent more than 3 months conspiring against the primary election, especially the congressmen of the euphemistically labeled Liberalism 2000, close to Comptroller Rodolfo Gonzalez, were not in a position to reverse the decision of the Cartagena Convention, nor were they willing to stand up and be counted. The only one who did stand up to be counted, despite the joking about the fact that he is so short that no one noticed he had stood up, was former Minister Abdon Espinosa Valderrama.

Thus, the much debated popular primary election, which had been the hook to pull Senator Luis Carlos Galan back into the fold, had overcome the last obstacle. The fear that this formula would turn out to be a wasted effort or a farce was put to rest for the time being as five precandidates—Alberto Santofimio was alone in opposing it—agreed that they would support whichever candidate won the 11 March primary. This could be interpreted as tacit acceptance that whoever wins a relative majority (it is taken for granted that no one will win an absolute majority) will be selected as the party's candidate, and that it would be very difficult for the convention of 24 March to deny him that right.

Until then, no one will know for sure who the winner and losers will be in this contest. But what is already known is that the great victor in this initial part of the battle, which ended with the convention, was former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala. He had placed his reputation on the line to win approval of this mechanism. He fought for it tooth and nail, exhibiting such neutrality that even the Turbayists were beginning to regard it as a hostile neutrality, even a pro-Galan stance. But if standing by his principles and remaining true to his word allowed him to cut a few people down to size, the ex-president's handling of the convention on Saturday knocked them flat. Without a single misstep, he was in control of the situation the whole time. He even took pains to see that the enemies of the primary, whom he and the convention had defeated, were not humiliated. The exaggerated praise that is commonly directed at party leaders in these conventions was surprisingly genuine on this occasion. This sincere admiration was also manifested when the delegates did not even allow the possibility of Turbay's resignation as party leader to be considered.

Now that that battle has been won, the real electoral contest begins. As a convention delegate said, "the players have been assembled, let the game begin." And in fact, last week was critical in the assembly of the various teams of the red party precandidates.

The following table is the result of an analysis of the figures by SEMANA for the purpose of arriving at an approximation of the distribution of the so-called committed vote, after the latest endorsements of the precandidates by Liberal members of Parliament last week. SEMANA took the figures from the various campaigns of the precandidates, reviewed them, and compared them with the results obtained by the various Liberal groups in each department in 1986. Finally, it came up with an average. Although some endorsements had not been made official as of press time, the bulk of the so-called Comptrollership Group was counted in Senator Hernando Duran's camp; the votes that went to Senator Carlos Holmes in the Valley were counted for Luis Carlos Galan; and those that went to Atlantic-region Senator Jose Name were counted in favor of Senator Ernesto Samper. It should be noted that this table does not include one factor, which has not been measured yet because the 11 March popular primary will be a first. This factor is the so-called independent vote, which the experts estimate at nearly a half million votes.

Estimate of Committed Votes

	Duran	Samper	Galan	Santifimio	Total Votes Committed
Total	1.505.000	922.000	1.145.000	428.000	4.073.000
%	36.9%	22.6%	28.1%	10.5%	(Includes estimate of votes for Jaime Castro and William Jaramillo)

The precandidates' speeches at the convention were just warm-up exercises. Galan, with a mixture of ideas and turns of phrase, showed off his gifts as a speaker. Unlike his experience in Cartagena last year, he heard no booing or heckling. Duran received hearty applause when he alluded to his powerful message of "democracy with vigor," although in other parts of his speech, even after deciding to support the primary, he gave in to the temptation to repeat his objections to it. Samper once again inspired the solidarity that has characterized his

appearances since the assassination attempt. He gave a vehement speech advocating reforms in the party and the country as a whole. Santofimio, on the other hand, came out against the Barco administration and the notion of a government consisting of a ruling party and opposition parties. He also gave a nod to his potential allies on the left. William Jaramillo stressed the need to look to the provinces and the idea of decentralization, and dwelled on the economic issues that are his strong point. Jaime Castro, in a gesture that was well received at the convention, declined to speak, and he conveyed that message through Santofimio.

More important than the speeches was the vote counting, which the delegates did throughout the week. The main conclusion of these analyses (see table) is that the presidency of the Republic will be disputed between Hernando Duran Dussan and Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento. The field of the three leading contenders appears to have been narrowed to two, as Ernesto Samper's forces begin to take shape more as a crucial swing vote than as a real presidential alternative. Samper, whose chances improved considerably after the attempt on his life, seems to have reached an intermediate situation in which he has neither Duran's machinery nor Galan's popular image. His commitments translate into nearly a million votes today, but they reached their limit when the majority of the Comptrollership Group, which he had been courting, decided to make common cause with Duran Dussan. With 922,000 votes, including those of Senator Jose Name, Samper has come into the home stretch in third place with respect to parliamentary support. For this reason, he would need a major stroke of luck to win the race.

Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to try to prematurely bury this bold young politician. Individually, Samper has the largest number of delegates at the convention. His parliamentary bloc, for electoral purposes, though in third place, is the most solid, compact, and homogeneous of the three. These forces are his own, not just temporary alliances like those of his rivals. Win or lose, an important majority will stay with him.

The candidate who undoubtedly has the greatest parliamentary strength is Duran Dussan. The commitment of the Comptrollership Group will give him a head start with 1.5 million votes. All of this puts Duran Dussan in the lead as he comes into the home stretch. An air of triumph pervades his campaign headquarters, and the worried faces that were seen before Antioquia Senator Bernardo Guerra endorsed him have disappeared. Duran himself is acting more like a president-elect than a precandidate. He feels that 40 years in Parliament have given him a familiarity with the political class that few others can boast, and with this group it is better to go slow and steady. Despite a few hitches, one by one the major political leaders have come over to his camp. He has most of the official Liberal Party machinery behind him, and since 1930, when it got Olaya Herrera elected, this machinery has won every election except for the two when there were schisms: in 1946 with Jorge Eliecer Gaitan and in 1982 with Galan.

Duran's victory is likely, but it is not yet a sure thing. Although he has the bulk of the machinery behind him, important segments of it are holding out in support of Samper and Galan. His candidacy has more credibility in the upper echelons than among the rank and file. The business sector supports him even more enthusiastically than the political class. The big press, in general terms, does too. At the level of these power groups, every time the public order situation deteriorates, with an assault, a bombing, or an assassination, there is increasing conviction that Hernando Duran Dussan is the man. But this is not the case, or at least it has not been so far, among the masses. According to all the polls, the preferences for Duran at that level are very low, and they have not increased as the weeks go by. Generally speaking, popular sympathy has not been a key factor in the selection of candidates in Colombia. Traditionally it has been the elements of power, like those that now support Duran, who have the final say. Neither Virgilio Barco, nor Julio Cesar Turbay, nor Misael Pastrana, nor Carlos Lleras were great caudillos of the masses, yet they all attained power. A candidacy of this type is usually considered a sure thing, unless a popular phenomenon like a Rojas or a Belisario emerges. And the real question is whether Luis Carlos Galan is of that caliber.

The congressmen who are backing Galan today garnered more than 1 million votes in the last elections. This, together with new forces that have high expectations, such as that of Fuad Char in the Atlantic region, puts him 350,000 votes behind Duran, whose parliamentary support amounts to about 1.5 million votes. Since the political machinery can be relied on, it can be deduced that these figures represent minimum assured votes. The big question is how many ballots the mysterious independent vote will generate. There is no doubt that Galan will win much more support than Duran in this sector. All the polls show him with four times the voter preference Duran has (50 percent to 12 percent). In other words, if there are a half-million independent votes above and beyond what the party machinery produces in the popular primary, it is foreseeable that the majority will go to Galan and Duran will get only a small portion. This cuts deeply into Duran's 350,000-vote lead over his rival. Therefore, based on a calculation of 4 million votes brought in by the party machinery and a half-million independent votes, Hernando Duran Dussan would beat Galan, but by a slim margin, even if the effect of the Conservative votes that both camps expect to garner is added in. If the independent vote is considerably larger than half a million, Galan could win.

One factor that must be taken into consideration, however, is that in the event of a tie, a lot would depend on the position taken by the supporters of Ernesto Samper. It is well known that the Samperists' sympathies lie more with Galan than with Duran. Not only for reasons of generational solidarity and party reform, but also out of cold calculation, Samper's followers figure that if Duran

becomes president, they will have to fight it out with Galan in the next presidential election. But if Galan is elected this time, the 1994 election will be a shoo-in.

As for the other candidates, Santofimio has about 500,000 votes. But although he always wields his threat to stay in the game until the end, and although he was the only one who did not explicitly agree to support the winner of the primary, the fact is that it would be very difficult for him to divide the Liberal Party now that all his conditions for the popular primary have been met. If he does decide to go to the finish line, the effects will be more counterproductive for him than for the Liberal Party.

As is frequently the case, the candidates with the least chance of winning are those with the most audacious and interesting platforms. This is true of Jaime Castro and William Jaramillo. They have been suggesting reforms, the former in the area of administrative matters and the latter in the economy, that if carried out would bring about fundamental changes in society.

Finally, we should ask ourselves what will be the real implications for Colombian institutions now that the controversial popular primary election has been adopted. On the one hand, it was argued many times that this was an absurd proposal because it allowed enemies of the Liberal Party to participate in the selection of its candidate. Defenders of the idea contended, on the other hand, that it was a guarantee of unity and therefore of triumph. Which of these points is valid? Both. This is an instrument that defies all political logic by depriving the party of its decisionmaking autonomy. At the same time, however, by pulling Galan back into the fold, it assures a Liberal victory in the presidential elections. If this process were to become institutionalized in Colombian politics, it would be as unique a formula as the National Front, which has not been applied in any other country of the world but was tried here.

In any case, since every cloud has its silver lining, there is an argument in favor of the popular primary that has not been put forth yet. All indications are that as we approach the end of the century, the Colombian political system will lean more toward the domination of one party with a huge majority, the Liberal Party, which will presumably win many elections. Therefore, the greatest defect that was pointed out in this primary may end up being its greatest virtue. In practice, the presidential election will take place in the popular primary with the various Liberal precandidates, because the subsequent contest with the candidates of the other parties may be a mere formality. Allowing all Colombians to participate in the primary election would then mean that the different political forces of the Liberal Party would not be excluded from the electoral process. That is, to a certain extent, a way of attenuating the dangers of the semihegemony that is on the horizon.

* Conservative Rift Widens

33480243 Bogota SEMANA in Spanish
25 Jul 89 pp 30-31

[Text] For many, the Conservative Party's problem began in the middle of this century with the now legendary rift between the Ospinists and the Laureanists. Others disregard the past and trace the conflict to more recent origins. The fact is that after the events of last week, the Authentic Conservative Party (as the Alvarists want to call it now) or the Social Conservative Party (as the Pastranists call it) seems to have split irremediably.

The latest—and perhaps final—quarrel arose out of a luncheon held on Tuesday the 18th at the Gran Vatel Restaurant in honor of the new president of the Directorate, Guillermo Angulo Gomez. Evidently, Representative Fabio Valencia Cossio proposed that the Alvarists be required to cast a "vote of obedience" if they wanted to attain the vice presidential posts in the House and Senate. Former President Pastrana, aware of the implications this would have, tried to moderate the position. But before anything definite could be agreed upon, and without anything having been put in writing, word leaked out and the newspaper EL TIEMPO published the story on its front page the following day. With the newspaper still on his breakfast table, former President Pastrana, visibly annoyed, made a statement to RCN [Colombian National Radio] accusing EL TIEMPO of distorting the facts.

But former candidate Alvaro Gomez, in a communique to his congressmen, once again withdrew authorization for his followers to act on his behalf in the caucus in view of what he regarded as "an unexpected act of hostility against peaceful coexistence" and "a discriminatory and antidemocratic act." And although Pastrana tried to blame the incident on misinformation printed by the Liberal newspaper, Pastrana supporter Valencia Cossio—the alleged originator of the controversial proposal—asserted that "they have distorted an obvious and logical position, that is, that the members of a party should obey and respect its rules." In short, he was tacitly admitting that the proposal had indeed been made.

Relations between former President Misael Pastrana and candidate Alvaro Gomez had been in an obvious state of deterioration for several months. In 1981, Pastrana and Enrique Gomez agreed in Paris on a unity plan that would guarantee a single presidential candidate in 1982 (Belisario Betancur) and again in 1986 (Alvaro Gomez). The Alvarists claim that they met their part of the bargain and that some of their leaders, such as Roberto Gerlein on the Coast, played a key role in Betancur's victory. They believe that the Pastranists did not reciprocate, however, when it was Gomez' turn. It was then that the problems began to worsen, as the Pastranists saw Gomez' defeat by Barco in 1986 as the final political burial of Laureano's son. Given the overwhelming results of the 1986 elections, which gave the Liberal

candidate a margin of over 1 million votes, it is understandable that Pastrana's followers would interpret the figures this way.

But the Alvarists thought there was more than one side to the issue. In Paris it had also been made clear that Pastrana, then the only Conservative ex-president, was the natural leader of the party. The whole party. But according to Alvarist Senator Rodrigo Marin, "Pastrana tried to be the leader of the party without giving up his leadership of his own group." According to the Alvarists, this tendency was aggravated after Gomez' defeat. Pastrana, who was expected to be somewhat neutral, felt that his sector had been given license to thrash the defeated sector. And although the Alvarists apparently suffered in silence for a while, the political resurrection of their leader, thanks to his kidnaping by M-19, gave them the courage to begin hitting back. Obviously, Pastrana was not very pleased about the Alvarists' showing their claws. He showed signs of his displeasure after a luncheon on 10 August of last year at the home of Alvaro Gomez, attended by Enrique Gomez, then Minister of Government Cesar Gaviria, and then president of the Liberal Party Hernando Duran Dussan. No one knows for certain how much the Liberals did to fuel the fire, but the fact is that the dessert had not been served yet when Pastrana launched the first salvo, announcing through the secretary general of the Directorate, Hernando Barjuch, that Gomez had no authority to negotiate anything with the government on behalf of his party.

Gomez' response was not long in coming: He withdrew authorization for the members of his group to represent him 15 days after the convention, or to participate in the Directorate on his behalf. The result: The new Directorate was made up of Pastranists, although a few seats were left empty just in case. And all indications are that they will remain empty, which may be, on the eve of the elections, tragic and ultimately fatal for the Social Conservative Party.

Guyana

Communications Agency Signs Agreement With GDR

FL2408183589 Bridgetown CANA in English 1505 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 24, CANA—The state Guyana Public Communications Agency has signed an agreement on co-operation in the field of information with the Association of Journalists of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). Officials here say the agreement will ensure that the two parties grant each other, on request, assistance by the promotion of co-operation between the various agencies and media involved in the field of information and communication in their respective countries.

The deal also involves the provision of training courses for qualified personnel and of specialists to conduct training programmes. The provision of equipment, technical advice and professional literature as well as the exchange of information material were also agreed to.

Strike by 20,000 Sugar Workers Ends After 2 Days

FL2408130689 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] In Guyana, a 2-day strike by 20,000 sugar workers is over. Arbor strikers say they will resume work stoppages if their demands are ignored. The workers have been demanding wage increases of between $1.35 and $3.00 a day. The strike crippled all 10 of the state-run Guyana Sugar Corporation's estates scattered along the nation's Caribbean coast. The workers will return to work today and await further instructions from the union.

Correction to Sugar Workers Strike

FL2408125589

This correction pertains to the item headlined "Sugar Workers Strike for Higher Minimum Wage," published in the 24 August Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 59:

Page 59, first column, fourth paragraph, first sentence reads: ...walked off their jobs on Tuesday [22 August] to back demands... (correcting date)

Suriname

Guyana's Hoyte Arrives in Suriname for Visit

FL2408124089 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte has arrived in Suriname on the first state visit there by a Guyanese leader. Mr Hoyte intends to use the visit to conclude bilateral trade agreements with Suriname. Those accords were made during Surinamese President Ramsewak Shankar's visit in March. The Guyanese delegation included Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson and Trade Minister Winston Murray.

'Important' Results Expected

FL2408182789 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] President Ramsewak Shankar and his Guyanese counterpart, Desmond Hoyte, expect important results from the bilateral discussions between the delegations of the two countries. The two presidents stated this yesterday at the beginning of a 3-day official visit by President Hoyte to Suriname. The bilateral discussions started yesterday afternoon.

During the discussions, President Ramsewak Shankar pointed out that various cooperation commissions had

already been installed. He has named mining, energy, and fisheries as extraordinary cooperation fields.

The bilateral discussions will be continued today. The Guyanese president will also visit the Nickerie District.

Yesterday evening, a reception was held at the Presidential Palace in honor of President Hoyte.

Hoyte Addresses National Assembly

FL2408184089 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Guyana looks forward to a closer cooperation with Suriname and considers the contacts between both parliaments as an important instrument for this. This was stated by Guyana's president, Desmond Hoyte, yesterday afternoon during his address to the National Assembly. He's at the moment in our country on a 3-day visit.

In his address yesterday afternoon, President Hoyte also emphasized the involvement of Surinamese and Guyanese parliamentarians in regional cooperation form.

Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon in his address promised that the Surinamese peoples' representatives will support the government in their intensifying of the cooperation with Guyana.

Antidrug Cooperation Discussed

FL2408203989 Paramaribo International Service in English 1720 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Remarks by Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte on 23 August to National Assembly—recorded]

[Text] I refer, for example, to the question of the planetary environment in respect of which our region is attracting great attention. [Words indistinct] of the abuse of and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

In the latter area, Suriname and Guyana are engaged in a cooperation effort within the framework of our bilateral agreement on the prevention, control, and suppression of illicit production, trafficking in and consumption of narcotics, drugs, and psychotropic substances. But in both cases, Mr Speaker, our two countries are involved in subregional, as well as regional, efforts designed to find solutions to recognize problems and to ensure that these solutions are consistent to the interest of our states.

These two events create a wider area of responsibility for parliamentarians as decision makers. A parliamentarian, who envisions, is obliged to extend beyond national borders.

The point I wish to make is that the realities of life in the time and in the region in which we live are themselves altering the agendas of national assemblies as bodies representing the highest expression of the will and the needs of the people. We must be prepared to cope with the demands of this emerging situation.

I'm encouraged, Mr Speaker, by the developments which are taking place. There is a growing relationship between the legislatures of our two countries.

Paramaribo Sites Said Attacked With Grenades

FL2408200989 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Yesterday morning, attacks were carried out with high-pressure grenades at three different places in the capital, Paramaribo. A car mart and two service stations have been the targets of the attacks which took place at different times. No casualties were reported and damage to property was minimal.

According to reports, a group which calls itself (Often) spoke on at least two radio stations and accepted responsibility for the attack.

Our newsroom was told this morning that the group is alleged to have undertaken the action to protest against high prices and corruption in the country.

The police, together with the military police, are investigating the matter. The investigating team declined to give further information when contacted this morning by our newsroom.

Number of AIDS Patients Expected To Increase

FL2408193889 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The chairman of the National AIDS Commission, Dr (Ben Bakker), has announced that at this moment, 74 persons are the carriers of the HIV virus in Suriname. This is approximately 1 case per 5,000 persons.

The deadly disease is caused by the HIV virus. According to (Bakker), this indicates that serious work must be done on the anti-AIDS program. (Bakker) said that the AIDS information has not adequately been carried out in the past because of organizational problems and lack of manpower. He has, however, pointed out that the national AIDS program will be housed in a better building shortly. The personnel will be increased and upgraded, said Dr (Bakker).

(Bakker) said that the plans to improve the AIDS information have already been completely worked out. According to the chairman of the National AIDS Commission, a number of AIDS patients will in the near future, however, increase even if the program works properly. He expects that in the long term, the results of the program will be positive.